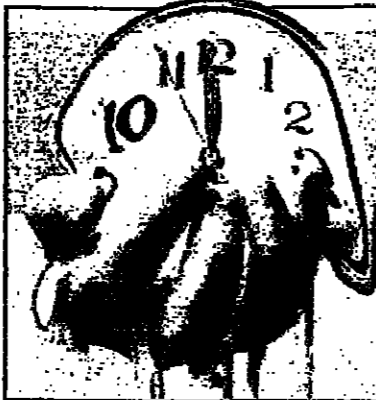




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Parliament's pomp spared reform

By Andrew Pierce
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT
FAR-REACHING plans to sweep away the pomp and pageantry of the 450-year-old State Opening of Parliament by simplifying the role of the Queen and to abolish the arcane traditions of the House of Commons have been vetoed by Tony Blair.

Queen's Speech in full ceremonial attire. Moves to introduce an electronic system of voting to bring Westminster into line with many other European parliaments and a horseshoe shaped chamber to remove the adversarial element of the Commons have also been quietly abandoned.

But one radical break with the past will go ahead. Surveys are going out to MPs over having a creche for the children of MPs: it could be open within months.

The Government is also canvassing opinion on whether to close down the shooting range in a House of Lords basement, favoured by Tory MPs from the shires. But the most contentious proposed change centred on the Queen's role in the State Opening of Parliament. One option was for the Queen to arrive by car, rather than horse-drawn coach with Household Cavalry escort, and to eschew a crown and full regalia.

But the Prime Minister, who has exceptionally good relations with Buckingham Palace, itself deeply concerned by the change, has insisted that the pomp and pageantry should remain. The Queen values the State Opening as an occasion when all parts of the constitution gather under a single roof as a direct link between the sovereign and the electorate.

A senior Minister said yesterday: "Tony does not believe it is pompous. It is a ceremony. He believes it is a good ceremony. He sees no reason for change." Some Labour MPs had called for an end to the practice of the Queen making an annual address to Parliament.

Some small changes may be considered. One tradition that could go is the bizarre practice of a government whip spending part of the day held hostage by Buckingham Palace in exchange for the Queen's safe return. But the Minister emphasised that it would be merely a sop to the modernisers. The whip is thought to be given a bottle of gin while he watches the ceremony on television.

Cook argues for Britain joining successful euro

By Philip Webster, Political Editor
ROBIN COOK today gives a clear signal that Britain could enter the single currency early in the next Parliament, giving a warning that it would be difficult and unwise to stay out for long if monetary union proves a success.

In an interview with *The Times* to mark the halfway point of the six-month British presidency of the European Union, the Foreign Secretary says that "the longer the single currency continues, the more the economic arguments will tilt in favour of joining".

Mr Cook's remarks are the clearest hint that a referendum on British membership will be held early in the next Parliament if Labour is re-elected. Last October Gordon Brown ruled out British membership for the present Parliament. But for the first time the Chancellor expressed support for the project in principle and pledged to work to create the conditions under which Britain could join.

The Foreign Secretary has in the past appeared sceptical over the single currency but has been gradually moving towards supporting British entry in the second wave. In the interview he expresses no regrets about being left on the sidelines when an expected 11 countries take the plunge on January 1.

Mr Cook, who backed the decision to stay out of the first wave, admits the situation could change within a few years. In staying out the Government had taken a sensible decision in the economic interests of the country. He said Britain was at a different point of the economic cycle and that there was no true economic convergence. "It would not, therefore, be sensible in economic terms for Britain to join."

He added that Labour did not view the single currency in the dogmatic way that Tory Euro-sceptics do. "We accept that if at a future date it was in Britain's economic interests to join that is a step we should recommend to the British people." In Opposition Mr Cook had said that staying out beyond 2002 would take a "very sober and serious calculation".

Asked whether he stood by that assessment now, Mr Cook said: "I absolutely stand by the clear thinking in that statement, which is that the longer single currency continues the more the economic arguments will tilt in favour of joining."

He said that Britain was in a good position. "We have clearly made the decision that at present it is in our economic interests but we have signalled that we will join when those economic circumstances change. One of those factors will be whether the single currency becomes established as a strong currency in the world — at which point it would be both increasingly difficult and increasingly unwise for us not to join."

Mr Cook's words will delight Mr Brown, who is preparing the ground for British entry if monetary union is successful. He says Britain's position is well understood by its partners. Mr Cook rejects the assertion by Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, that Britain's influence will wane through staying out of the single currency.

The Foreign Secretary says there is no question of Britain being in the second division. "We are recognised increasingly as a leading partner in Europe, and giving all the impetus we can to the process of enlarging the community to 26 nations."

Mr Cook said that the proof that there is no antagonism towards the Labour Government is provided by the assurances from Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Chirac of France that a seat awaits on the European Central Bank.

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Leading article, page 21



Wedding at Chevening: Mr Cook and Miss Regan yesterday at his official residence in Kent, where they will marry in a private ceremony on Sunday, April 19

Banquet debut for new wife

GAYNOR REGAN has chosen a glittering City occasion to make her first official appearance as the wife of the Foreign Secretary. She is to attend the Lord Mayor's Banquet on April 23 when Robin Cook will be making a key foreign policy address.

It will be only four days after their wedding. Mr Cook and Miss Regan are to marry on Sunday, April 19, in a private ceremony at Chevening, his official residence in Kent. They plan to go off for a few days together after the wedding but it will be back to business by the Thursday.

Mr Cook told *The Times*: "We are both thrilled and looking forward to our future life together. We feel deeply committed to each other and are both very excited about our wedding plans."

Robinson's plea
Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster-General, is lobbying to avoid being moved to transport. Page 48

Fulham fan died as his head hit kerb

By Claudia Joseph and Daniel McGrory
THE Fulham football fan killed after Saturday's match at Gillingham was identified last night as Matthew Fox, 24, a single man from Purley in Surrey. A post-mortem examination showed that he died from head injuries and not from stab wounds as was first reported.

His sister Bonnie Fox, 20, said last night that her family was distraught. Speaking outside their home in Old Lodge Lane, Purley, she said: "Somebody approached him out of nowhere. He was punched around the side of the head and fell, hitting his head on the side of the kerb. We have seen it all on television and in the newspapers and it has brought it home to us. Our parents are distraught. It is too early to talk about it."

Kent detectives were last night still questioning three Gillingham fans, including two brothers, and studying video footage of the street brawl, taken outside the stadium at the end of a grudge match. Police said it was too soon to say whether the attackers would face murder or manslaughter charges.

Weekend of violence, page 3

Women cricketers vote to join forces with men

By Philip Delves Broughton
DISPLAYING a readiness to forgive often absent in their male counterparts, Britain's women cricketers yesterday voted overwhelmingly to join the men.

At an Edgbaston meeting the 71-year-old Women's Cricket Association "ran itself out". Women's cricket will now come under the Lord's-based England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). When the board was founded 18 months ago, its assumption of the association's duties was considered a formality. Earlier this month, however, Theresa Harrild, once a secretary there, was awarded damages at an industrial tribunal after she accused her employers of rampant sexism and encouraging her to have an abortion.

In her testimony, she said executives regularly referred to women cricketers as "dykes" important to have around only to secure lottery funding.

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Cook defends Blair over Murdoch

Andrew Pierce reports as Conservatives challenge Downing Street spokesman

ROBIN COOK intervened publicly yesterday to defend Tony Blair over the attacks on the closeness of his relationship with Rupert Murdoch. The Foreign Secretary denied that Mr Blair had lobbied the Italian Prime Minister for help in Mr Murdoch's proposed £4 billion acquisition of the country's leading commercial television network.

Blair's official spokesman, decided the story as a "joke" earlier in the week, but on Friday *The Times* disclosed that Mr Murdoch had telephoned Mr Blair to ask him for help to ascertain whether the Italian Government would block his bid for Mediaset.

The deal never went ahead. But Robin Cook, speaking on Radio 4's *The World this Weekend*, said that the telephone call had been initiated by Mr Prodi, which was why press reports were wrong to have portrayed Mr Blair as directly intervening on behalf of Mr Murdoch in return for *The Sun* newspaper switching from the Tories to Labour at the election.

that Mr Blair intervened or had an axe to grind or was acting as any kind of lobbyist is indeed not true. Mr Cook rejected the idea that Mr Murdoch had been a regular visitor to Downing Street or Chequers, and insisted he had no special access or hotline to Mr Blair's study.

spokesman, who had tried to make light of the affair on Tuesday, when he would neither confirm nor deny that the deal had been mentioned, and added: "This was not a conversation about Rupert Murdoch".

this kind. I think the public need to see that such dealings are transparent. Why does the Prime Minister have to have his press spokesman hotly denying things that turn out to be true?"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yates to challenge Hutchence verdict

Paula Yates indicated last night that she would mount a legal challenge against the verdict of suicide recorded by a Coroner after the death of her lover Michael Hutchence in a Sydney hotel last November. Speaking on Australian television, she said she would be seeking legal advice.

Funeral attack on peace policy

A PRESBYTERIAN minister used yesterday's funeral of the retired policeman assassinated by republican gunmen on Friday night to denounce the Government's "appeasement" of Sinn Féin.

Euro Lamont

Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, is on the official list of Tory candidates for next year's European elections. He is among more than 200 Conservative hopefuls approved by party chiefs.

Double death

A couple who decided not to bother their doctor when they fell ill died from pneumonia, Billy Muir, 62, was found dead in bed with his dog Ben beside him at home in Harrogate. His wife Mary, 63, 48 days ago had died. She was found ill but died in hospital.

Tax plan shelved

Plans for a new, higher band council tax on properties worth more than £450,000 have been shelved by the Government. The climbdown will be confirmed today with the publication of three Green Papers on council tax finances.

Jobless to be given half-price rail deal

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MORE than 100,000 jobless young people will be offered cut-price travel as part of the Government's New Deal to get the long-term unemployed back to work. Details of the multimillion-pound concession will be announced today by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster-General, who has broken the discount scheme with the private sector.

Tories demand an inquiry into 'cash for access' affair

Leaked memo proposes raising £15m from businessmen for visits to Downing Street, writes Andrew Pierce

AN investigation was demanded last night into a leaked memo from one of Labour's most important fundraisers that proposed access to Downing Street to raise £15 million from wealthy supporters.

controversy engulfed Labour over its links with businessmen, a former fundraiser insisted that it had always been the plan to exploit Downing Street.

and Jonathan Powell is critical to the success of the programme. Ms Delew wrote: "Major donors need to feel that they are at the centre of things. Jonathan offers an opportunity for them to meet someone at the focus of all activity, who will answer their questions, whilst providing a reason for them to visit Number 10."



Fireman tackle the blaze from which nine people escaped

Three backpackers killed in house fire

THREE foreign backpackers were burnt to death early in a fire at a house where they were sleeping after a student party.

Funeral attack on peace policy

BY MARTIN FLEISCHER

A PRESBYTERIAN minister used yesterday's funeral of the retired policeman assassinated by republican gunmen on Friday night to denounce the Government's "appeasement" of Sinn Féin.

The New Deal, to be launched nationally next week, will offer employers a £60-a-week subsidy to take on 18-24 year olds out of work for at least six months.

FUNDRAISERS TARGETED ECCLESTONE

Labour's High Value Fundraising unit secured the £1 million donation from Bernie Ecclestone that was to plunge Tony Blair into the worst crisis of his Premiership.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, told BBC TV's *On The Record* programme: "This was a paper that was prepared by a middle-ranking official as a proposal. The moment it got anywhere near senior officials... it was spilt."

Hague says Tories plan to bolster the family unit

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TAX reforms to bolster the traditional family will form the centrepiece of the Tories' attempt to recover popularity. William Hague indicated as his internal party reforms won 96 per cent backing at a special weekend conference in Harrogate.

married couple's tax allowance which is expected to have gone altogether by the next election. "What we have seen in the Budget is the recognition of marriage in the tax and benefit system being eroded."

Mr Hague insisted that marriage was not a dated concept. "I want to see our party support not only the family but the institution of marriage as well. It will be up to a Conservative government to produce the real plan for reform of the welfare state."

Legal challenge looms in big test for divorce reforms

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE most controversial aspect of the Government's divorce reforms will be tested for the first time in parts of the country next week amid threats by solicitors to challenge the plans in court.

Under the Family Law Act 1996, divorcing couples who qualify for legal aid will have to see a family mediator with a view to assessing if they should first try mediation as a way of sorting out finances and arrangements over children.

does not plan to issue a writ at this stage. Jane Leigh, secretary of the Society's family law committee, said: "We have always supported mediation and are pleased that it is going to be publicly funded. But we think people should have a free choice over whether they go to mediation or not."

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Banks demands inquiry into football violence

TONY BANKS, the Sports Minister, called last night for an urgent inquiry into the violence that marred the weekend football programme, which ended in the death of 24-year-old Matthew Fox, a Fulham fan.

Ministers and football authorities fear the return of hooliganism, which saw pitch invasions at two Premier League grounds, will threaten England's chances of hosting the 2006 World Cup.

One Whitehall source said last night: "It is damaging. This revives memories of the past and raises the spectre of trouble linked to our game. There is this residual problem which over the last ten years has not been eradicated but contained and reduced."

Fearful of an outbreak of violence at this summer's World Cup, the Home Office is telling magistrates to use their powers to restrict the freedom of known football hooligans. They want them to impose an order on fans convicted of football-related violence, making them report to police stations when England are playing matches in the World Cup.

The new football task force under David Mellor, the former Tory Cabinet minister, is also to investigate the segregation of rival fans and security inside grounds to stop further

Richard Ford on responses to the violence that saw a fan's death and two pitch invasions

pitch incursions. Mr Mellor said: "The murder of a fan by either being stabbed or beaten is just so awful that football has to take a look at itself."

"There needs to be an inquiry into this incident. Complaints about referees, stewards and policing can be valid, but they are no excuse for the things we have seen this weekend."

Mr Banks, the Sports Minister, said: "These events are to be totally deplored and our sympathies must go to the family of the young Fulham fan who was killed. My driver happened to be there and clearly an inquiry needs to be mounted about the crowd safety there."

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said: "These events were awful, ugly and unacceptable and we will have to work even harder to root out such violence from soccer. The rep-

utation of English soccer has got a great deal better in the last ten years. We ran Euro 96 brilliantly and therefore it is even sadder that there are incidents like this — which happily are becoming more isolated — but that is no comfort at all to the family and friends of the person who died."

The urgent need for action was supported by the football authorities, who admit that there is a likelihood of more hooliganism as crucial issues of promotion and relegation are decided soon.

Clubs are likely to be encouraged to spend more on policing their grounds rather than relying on stewards.

Ian Westwood, vice-chairman of the Police Federation, said: "I think throughout the season there has been a growing concern that those people who have been proclaiming football hooliganism to be dead were living in a land of wishful thinking."

He said that recent outbreaks of trouble meant the police, together with the football authorities, should look again at policing matches.

Monica Harland, deputy chairman of the National Federation of Supporters' Clubs, said: "We as an organisation have never said hooliganism had disappeared. It is bubbling beneath the surface and it is 99 per cent banished from grounds, but outside it is different."

Ministers will be concerned that the French authorities will have watched on television the events at Barnsley and Everton where fans invaded the pitch attempting to reach match officials.

At the Barnsley game Paul Ince, the Liverpool captain, was seen rugby-tackling a fan who had run on to the pitch.

There will be fears of outbreaks of hooliganism among England and Scotland fans travelling to France for the World Cup. The Government is spending £1 million persuading fans without tickets not to go to the Channel.

Mr Banks is said to be "very concerned" at the sale of knives sponsored by the international football body Fifa. He spotted the knives inscribed with the World Cup logo on sale at Marseilles airport as he returned from the draw for the four-yearly competition in December. Mr Banks has asked the French Ambassador in London for them to be taken off the shelves.



A policeman among fans at yesterday's Coca-Cola Cup final, which passed off peacefully after the violence that marred Saturday's matches

Portent of strife to come at World Cup

Football violence has not been vanquished, merely suppressed by a police operation, Rob Hughes writes

THE spectre of death outside a football stadium returns to echo the violence of the 1970s and 1980s. It should surprise no one who frequents the grounds, for so-called football hooliganism was never cured, simply suppressed by a costly and highly sophisticated police operation.

Time, and the investigation into the aftermath of the Gillingham-Fulham brawl, will tell if that police guard was negligently lowered. It is disturbing enough that there was a portent of split blood between the two clubs in 1995, and investigations will look at whether proper segregation from the Priestfield Stadium to the railway station was accomplished.

With two months before the World Cup in France, and £9 million com-

mitted to the Football Association's bid for the 2006 World Cup to be held here, the portents are untimely. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, sounds like his predecessors when he dusts off the cliché about "mindless hooliganism": he should know better, for, as a Blackburn Rovers fan, he sits among the supporters, not all of whom are the trendy upmarket variety. Claiming to feel disaffected by "their" game being ever more subjected to market forces, many issue intimidatory threats. The assault on a linesman at a game

between Portsmouth and Sheffield United in January was one warning. On Saturday, Barnsley's Jan Aage Fjortoft and Liverpool's Paul Ince deployed rugby tackles to prevent invaders from the stands at Oakwell from attacking the referee. At Everton too, there was menacing encroachment. The FA, mindful of its ambitions to stage a World Cup after the euphoria claimed for the Euro 96 Championships, will hold an inquiry, possibly several. Yet they have acted irresponsibly in fanning the ire of thousands of

English supporters who feel they have been victimised in the pursuit of scarce tickets for the coming tournament.

David Mellor, who took up the cause of the England fans whose provocative behaviour in Rome resulted in police over-reaction, constantly broadcasts his outrage at the French authorities. Head of the Football Task Force, he rarely sees fit among the travelling supporters, and seems unaware of the troubles awaiting across the Channel.

The World Cup could see not only thugs from England posing as decent followers of the game but others from around Europe. Some of them have far-right backgrounds, and some, for example in Holland, exceed the English in orchestrating trouble.



A police photographer working at the death scene

'Bad blood' left fans in fear of violence

STEWARDS who braved missiles and coins as they struggled to keep feuding supporters apart in Gillingham's stadium said last night that they had pleaded with police to prevent supporters leaving the ground.

Rival supporters boasted before Saturday's grudge match that there was "bad blood" and spent much of the afternoon clawing at metal fencing to get at each other.

Two stewards who patrolled the 6ft caged divide said supporters had not been effectively segregated. Many trapped inside the tightly packed Priestfield stadium begged for help to escape the violence.

"Fans, including women and children, were really scared, as we were," one of the stewards said. "They shouted to two police with dogs walking the touchline to help but they turned away."

The two men, who asked not to be named for fear of losing their jobs, said they repeatedly and senior police officers to keep the 1,200 visiting Fulham fans inside the ground, realising violence would spill into the streets around the stadium.

One steward, aged 29, who has worked at Wembley stadium, said: "You could see fans were leaving before the final whistle. They were goading each other. We made our last plea as Gillingham scored their second goal just seconds before the match ended."

Minutes later Matthew Fox and three friends encountered a group of Gillingham supporters in a narrow alleyway where police are posted to prevent rival fans meeting. As parents tried to shepherd young supporters home from the game, police fought to resuscitate Mr Fox, 24, barely six feet from the blue gates of the stadium.

Paul Scally, the Gillingham chairman, denied that there

■ Stewards and supporter say rival fans were allowed out of the stadium too soon, reports Daniel McGrory

had been any lapse in security for the sell-out game. "We are so shocked and distressed but this was a fabulous match played in a great atmosphere and we were complimented by the police and FA observer."

Supporters recall a very different atmosphere at the Medway town. Fans from both teams described the "bad blood" among the 10,500 inside Priestfield. Stewart Kimber, 36, said: "I have never experience mindless hatred and violence like it. I saw a man holding his little girl's hand hit in the face by two Fulham fans, and the police seemed paralysed by it all."

Mr Kimber, a lifelong Gillingham supporter who has worked as a steward at the club, said: "No way should fans leave together, not when

they have spent the entire game trying to get at each other. It was a disaster waiting to happen."

Trevor Hawe, 20, said: "It was out of control. Gangs of fans were just lashing out at each other." A 21-year-old steward who gave her name only as Lisa said she had been told by colleagues before the game ended that there was certain to be trouble. In her first season as a steward, Lisa is paid £10 a game. Her only training has been a two-hour briefing by Kent police about her powers of arrest.

Other stewards said Fulham fans who did not have tickets for the visitors enclosure were paying at the turnstiles among Gillingham supporters, who said the club was trying to save money by employing untrained stewards rather than paying for police.

Paul Wenham, 15, said: "Most stewards are there just to watch the match for free. They don't know about crowd control." But Mr Scally said: "Safety is always paramount no matter what. We don't have a problem with crowd trouble here. This is a family club."

Kent police said about 60 officers and seven police dogs were on duty, which was normal for a game classified as category B. Category C is a potentially troublesome fixture.

Supporters say the enmity between the clubs began two years ago when a Gillingham player had his leg broken, ending his career, an ill-tempered match against Fulham. Saturday's match had the added tension of both sides trying to win promotion from the Nationwide Division Two.

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Religious order apologises for abuse

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

ONE of Ireland's leading religious orders apologised yesterday to those who suffered physical and sexual abuse in its schools. Newspaper advertisements placed by the Irish Christian Brothers read: "We say to you who have experienced physical and sexual abuse by a Christian Brother, and to you who complained of abuse and were not listened to, we are deeply sorry."

Over the past century the order has educated more than half a million Irish boys in boarding schools for the poor that were renowned for their harsh discipline. Today it runs about 130 schools for 60,000 pupils.

No Christian Brother has yet been convicted, but there have been several complaints of abuse in recent years, and the advertisements contrast sharply with the order's past denials.

Voluntary bans on smoking won't work, say doctors

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

LEGISLATION or regulation of smoking in public places is essential to protect people from the dangers of passive smoking, doctors' leaders have told the Government. They say that voluntary agreements will not work.

They also want levels of fines increased for tobaccoists who sell cigarettes to under-age children, and nicotine replacement therapy available on prescription.

The profession is concerned that repeated delays in publication of the promised White Paper on tobacco control mean that the Government is being pressured by the industry to water down the proposals. After Tony Blair offered an exemption from a ban of tobacco sponsorship to Formula One racing, doctors fear that the industry is again using its economic muscle.

"Courage is required," says Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association, in a letter to Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, published today. "Voluntary agreements are not likely to achieve the desired aims and are likely to be undermined regularly."

He says that smoking is a habit usually formed before the age of 18, and therefore maximum effort must go into stopping sales to under-age youths. Raising the legal age to 18, he says, "may appear to undermine younger people and, while attractive, is too simplistic a solution."

He says that enforcement of existing laws rather than attempting to change the age limit is the best way forward. The present level of fines needs to be substantially increased and magistrates given lessons on the dangers of sales to young people so that they can be encouraged to impose significant fines.

Vending machines should be allowed only if they work

with tokens which are sold to people legally allowed to smoke.

Dr Macara says that nicotine replacement therapy is clinically shown to help people quit smoking, and should therefore be made available on prescription and sold at retail outlets along with other over the counter drugs.

District nurses should also be able to provide these therapies because they can target young women, who are starting to smoke more and are the group causing most concern.

Extra money would be needed for the measures, but they would save lives and health-care costs eventually. "We must not lose sight of the fact that the tobacco industry is public enemy number one," Dr Macara writes. "It has no concern for the health of the nation."

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Rory Bremner, left, and the homeless Gary Gallard, who shared a stage again 17 years after university days

Reunion shows Bremner other side of success

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

RORY BREMNER thought there was something vaguely familiar about the actor with whom he was sharing a rehearsal stage.

The two were halfway through preparations for a gala charity show in London last night to mark the 30th anniversary of the homelessness charity, Crisis. Then Bremner realised that his fellow performer was none other than his former university friend, Gary Gallard, who was homeless himself.

The two had last seen each other 17 years earlier when they were in a student production of Simon Gray's play, *Otherwise Engaged*. Their theatrical reunion took them both by surprise.

"It was a shock," Bremner, a regular campaigner for Crisis, said. "It brought me up sharp to learn what had happened to Gary. When you hear that someone you know has become homeless, it is quite a shock. It brings the realities of homelessness to you more vividly than the already shocking sight of homeless people sleeping in doorways. You realise it could happen to virtually anyone."

Mr Gallard is an actor with Cardboard Citizens, a theatre

company made up of homeless and formerly homeless people. He said it was "surprisingly easy" to be with his old friend again. "I have watched his career from afar. It was interesting, although I never told anyone that we used to be fellow performers, not even people who have known me for years. I often wonder what became of other people from university."

For the organisers of the gala, the surprise reunion could not better have illustrated the perils of homelessness. While Bremner followed a glittering career path after graduating in French and German from King's College London in 1984, Mr Gallard, a former theology student, had taken a less enchanted route to despair and destitution.

Shaks Ghosh, chief executive of Crisis, said it was not unusual for people from seemingly privileged backgrounds to end up on the streets. New MORI research, commissioned by Crisis to mark this week's anniversary, shows that one in five adults knows or has known someone who has experienced homelessness. Among people aged 15 to 24, the figure rises to one in three.

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Oflot to examine numbers blunder

Error by Camelot forces double payout, writes Claudia Joseph

THE National Lottery regulator Oflot launched an inquiry last night after the wrong set of balls was fed into a machine, prompting another draw to be made after the show had been broadcast.

As Camelot faced a double payout for the blunder, there were renewed calls for the National Lottery Big Ticket Show to be scrapped.

Camelot stands to lose hundreds of thousands of pounds over the incident, which occurred during the launch of the new scratchcard game TV Dreams. The drawmaster, Stephen Webb, in the presence of the auditors Price Waterhouse and Oflot, loaded the wrong balls into the third machine, drastically changing the odds of the game.

Viewers checking the four numbers against their scratchcards were oblivious to the mistake, which was discovered during the 50-minute show. The remainder of the programme was pre-recorded and the second draw to reselect the third number was not televised.

Last night Camelot blamed the mistake, in which balls 21 to 40 were loaded instead of 21 to 50, on "human error" and pledged to honour both number runs. A statement read: "Due to an error when loading the balls for the third number in the TV home play game, the third draw has been re-selected. We will honour both sets of numbers. It will mean that, in effect, two sets of numbers were drawn instead of one."

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, welcomed Camelot's apology but was adamant that Oflot should hold an inquiry. "I am pleased that

Camelot said very rapidly that both sets of four numbers would be honoured," he said. "They will be taking that out of their own profits. That clearly has to happen. It was evidently their mistake. I will be looking to the director general of Oflot to make sure they are acting with absolute propriety."

Oflot could not explain how the error occurred in front of its own representative, or what had happened to the missing balls. A spokesman said: "Obviously we are greatly concerned about what happened, but believe Camelot has acted properly to address this incident. We will be making a thorough investigation to find out what happened and what safeguards can be put in place to ensure this doesn't happen again."

The bill for the extra payout will be footed by Camelot and its shareholders, although its exact cost will not be known until the end of the 16-week series.

Last night a BBC spokeswoman said: "We are happy that all the procedures are in place. Mistakes do happen. We are confident that Oflot will perform its duty in investigating what happened and take the necessary steps to ensure it doesn't happen again."

However, the mistake has increased pressure on the BBCI show, which is hosted by Anthea Turner and the comedian Patrick Kielty. The corporation has come under sustained pressure from MPs, the clergy and anti-gambling groups to drop the controversial game. Critics allege that the show is a vehicle for increasing scratchcard sales, which fell last week to £14 million a week compared with £44 million at its peak. Camelot claims the TV Dreams scratchcards and National Lottery Big Ticket Show will increase instant sales by up to 25 per cent.

Opponents also claim that the programme violates BBC guidelines on advertising commercial products, promoting gambling and paying for game show prizes. They point out that contestants have to buy scratchcards before they can play at home or appear on the show, and that the prize money comes from Camelot.



Going for a weekend spin: the car somersaulting with 17-year-old Mark Thomas at the wheel, just a week after his driving test

Hello dad, there was a problem with the car

THE car was new. The 17-year-old driver had passed his test only the week before. This was how his first rally ended. Incredibly, both car and driver will be racing again.

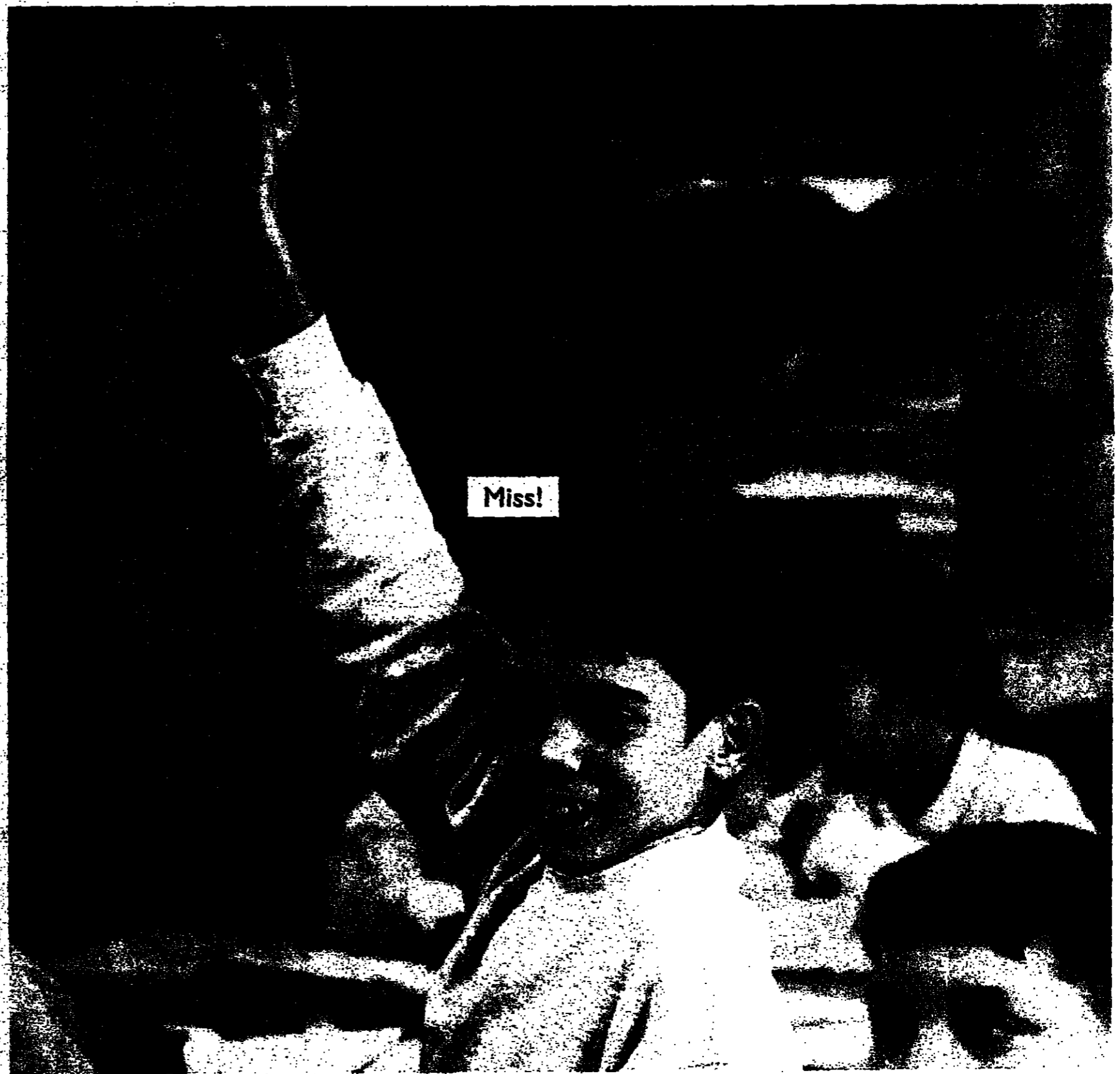
Mark Thomas stepped out unscathed after the £13,700 Daihatsu Cuore Avarzato had a blow-out, hit the bank of the road, turned a 50-yard somersault and then hit a fence post. Mr Thomas, an apprentice mechanic at his father Ray's garage in Ammanford, southwest Wales, was the youngest competitor in the first stage of the Daihatsu Rally Challenge at Oliver's Mount, Scarborough.

The former junior autograss champion and his navigator, Robert Richardson, 32, were shaken but unhurt. The car can be repaired and might make the next event in May. Mr Richardson said: "We were a little bruised. Mark's disappointed because he passed his driving test a week ago."

Reunion show
Bremner other
side of success



Anthea Turner hosts the BBCI programme



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Foetus has an ear for music at 20 weeks

BABIES in the womb can hear and remember music as early as 20 weeks of gestation, according to research at Keele University.

Psychologists Stephen Evans and Richard Parncutt asked expectant mothers to play folk music loud enough for the sound to penetrate to the womb. After the babies had been born, there were signs that they recognised the tunes, even those played to them in 21st week.

The results, described by Mr Evans as "astounding", have implications for foetal development and for abortion. The rules permit abortion up to the 24th week of pregnancy — by which time, the results suggest, foetuses are sentient beings with some capacity to learn and remember.

Fifteen pregnant women took part in the experiments. Ten played the music to the unborn children; five did not. The ten were given two tapes, one of Welsh folk music and one of Devonshire folk music. The tunes were unfamiliar to the women. They were asked to play one tape at 20 and 21 weeks of pregnancy, and the other between 30 and 31 weeks. The volume was adjusted so that it could be heard

Babies played tunes in the womb know them once they are born, writes Nigel Hawkes

above a washing machine, yet not loud enough to annoy the neighbours.

Two to three weeks after birth the babies were played the same tunes, plus another one which had not been played to them. Video tapes were taken and assessed by two independent observers, who measured the "kick rates" of the babies.

The idea was to see if the music played to them in the womb soothed them and reduced the rate at which they kicked, when compared either with silence, or with the third tape. It did, and the music heard in the 21st week of pregnancy was as effective as that heard in the 31st week.

Mr Evans, who presented the results at the British Psychological Society annual conference in Brighton, said: "When you see the videos of the babies, there is a real contrast in their behaviour. The babies who recognise the music look completely still and limp. They were extremely calm, very relaxed."

Earlier experiments have shown that babies do react to music played to them in the womb. But until now it had been thought that babies of less than 24 weeks of gestation were incapable of memory because the cortex, the higher part of the brain, has not developed by this stage.

There were important implications, Mr Evans said, not only for abortion but for the way babies might be affected by what was happening around them while in the womb. "If the mother is involved in a row, the foetus is hearing that at the same time as the hormonal changes that are associated with emotional conflict, and these hormones flood the foetus."

He added: "If the foetus is aware at this time, it could result in a classical conditioned response later, after the baby is born. The baby could be frightened of its father's voice, associating it with the unpleasant memory."

He thought it might be a good idea for mothers to talk reassuringly to their unborn babies. But he said that it was a waste of time for expectant mothers to buy expensive attachments to music around their stomachs. "Music or the spoken word only needs to be as loud as background radio or stereo", he said.

Research at Queen's University, Belfast has shown that foetuses show right or left-handedness as early as ten weeks of gestation. Peter Hepper and Glenda McCartney told the BPS meeting that of 87 foetuses they had studied using ultrasound, 85 per cent were right-handed and 15 per cent left-handed, similar to the proportions in the general population. They observed whether the foetuses preferred to move their right or their left arm buds.



Ben Marquise Gilmore, right, and other pupils at the Yehudi Menuhin school test the Yamaha electric violin

IN the hands of a beginner, the violin can be an instrument of torture, up there with scratching nails down a blackboard or Russ Abbott records. Now, however, Yamaha has come up with a solution: the silent, electric violin.

The violin body has been hollowed out, leaving only half its classical outline, but the bridge, fingerboard and neck are intact. Earphones, or an amplifier, can be plugged in beneath the bridge. Otherwise it is the same. The violinist can play a full range of notes, as well as perform the usual effects such as vibrato and

Muted plaudits for silent violin

pizzicato. The neck is made of maple, the body of spruce, the fingerboard and tuning pegs of ebony and the bridge of maple. The frame and chin rest are made from ABS resin. A normal violin bow can be used, and rosin should be used in the usual way on the bow's hairs. At the Yehudi Menuhin school in Cobham, Surrey, the electric violin was received with mixed feelings.

Ben Marquise Gilmore, 10, who usually plays a 100-year-old, three-quarter size Dutch violin belonging to the school, tried it and concluded: "It didn't sound like a real violin." But Yibo Bao, 15, said: "It's pretty OK for a practice violin. It would be good for warm-ups."

At Chappell's, in Bond Street, sales of the electric violin, which costs £399, are reported to be brisk. Yamaha is not stopping with the string section. Its new range is in silent brass.

At Chappell's, in Bond Street, sales of the electric violin, which costs £399, are reported to be brisk. Yamaha is not stopping with the string section. Its new range is in silent brass.

Children lose faith in Heaven

Mind-reading and dreams have more young believers, Ian Murray reports

CHILDREN are more likely to believe in mind-readers, dream analysis and empathy with their pets than to believe in Heaven, a survey has found.

Four out of five say they believe that some dreams come true, but only half believe in an afterlife. The survey among more than 1,000 children aged 10 to 15 was supervised by their teachers at 13 schools in five regions. The questions were backed by discussion groups to fill out their answers. A clear majority of the children thought that science could not explain everything, and the survey found that belief in the supernatural — but not

in Heaven — increased with age. By the time they were 15, 84 per cent of the children said they believed some dreams came true, with boys and girls equally strong in thinking this. Half of the children felt understanding their dreams was important and wanted someone to explain them.

Boys were slightly more likely than girls to believe that animals empathised with them, with 59 per cent convinced that their pet knew what they felt. One in ten believed animals would be reincarnated. Three out of five believed that some people were mind-readers, and half thought that some could foresee the future. There was a strong feeling that people have a sixth sense to protect them from danger.

Boys were more sceptical about the existence of Heaven, with an average of 48 per cent believing in it compared with 60 per cent of girls. Age difference showed that belief decreased in age, while 66 per cent of ten-year-olds believed

in Heaven's existence, the figure fell to 50 per cent among 14-year-olds. Just over half of both sexes believed that life exists on other planets, but more boys than girls thought aliens had visited earth. Girls were more cynical about extraterrestrials and thought that programmes such as Star Trek were wide of the truth. More girls than boys believed in lucky numbers, palmistry and star signs, but both sexes were unimpressed with the idea that handwriting could reveal a personality. The survey was carried out by Childwise Limited for Element Children's Books, who are to publish a range of titles for older children.

Game experts play at life and death

A TEAM of computer-game experts will be putting their skills to the test to help save lives today. They will be trying out a virtual-reality simulator that is being developed to train surgeons, to make sure it is a good test of hand-eye control.

Researchers from St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, have turned to gamers from Sevenoats at the London Twocoders. Nick Taffinder, who is conducting the trial, said: "Virtual reality would be a big boost for keyhole surgery training. The simulator is

in its infancy, but we wanted to see how other people who use eye-hand control coped with our machine."

At present, doctors use plastic models of the human torso as part of their training. But they are anxious to develop virtual reality systems where they can go into an imaginary patient to gain a better idea of using their instruments. Kieron O'Brien, a spokesman for Sega, said: "We are honoured that our best gamers might be able to help. We like to think that the skills can be of use in other areas."

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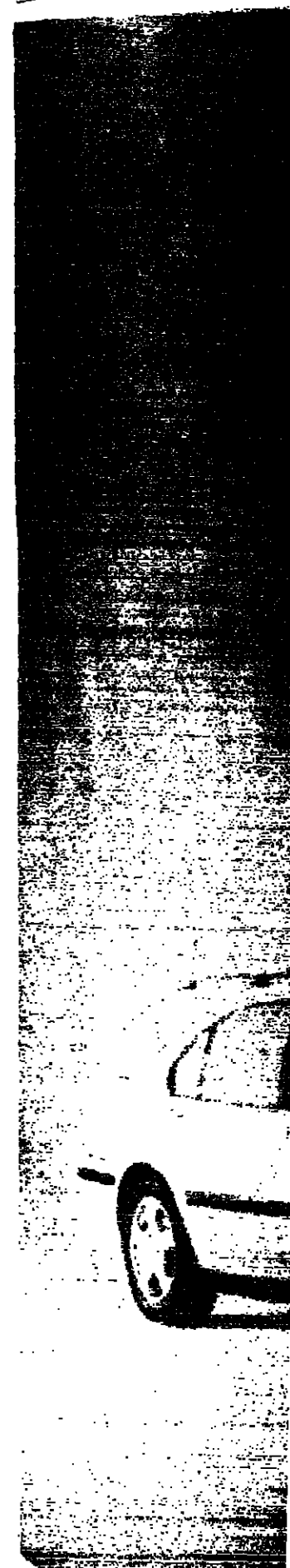
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Cook celebrates life at home and abroad

Foreign Secretary tells Philip Webster of his delight at getting married again and his satisfaction with EU presidency

ROBIN COOK has had a turbulent year. His private life has been embroiled across the newspapers and he has been involved in his share of diplomatic bust-ups.

However, in an interview to mark the halfway point of Britain's presidency of the European Union, the Foreign Secretary was remarkably upbeat and relaxed. For he had just confirmed plans to marry Gaynor Regan in a civil ceremony at his official residence at Chevening in Kent. He coyly confirmed that he had bought the ring.

Although reluctant to say too much more, Mr Cook added: "We are both thrilled and looking forward to our future life together. We feel deeply committed to each other. We are very excited about our wedding plans."

Mr Cook was also looking forward enthusiastically to today's launch in Brussels of the accession process for 11 potential members of the EU. He said that the "flying start" Britain was giving to the new members was the big achievement of the presidency and he believed that enlargement would, in the long term, prove every bit as significant as the introduction of the single currency.

Mr Cook was happy, too, to be taking the Blair modernisation project to the Foreign Office. He has sent back to the Government art collection an ancient picture of a Nepalese maharaja that has adorned his magnificent office for years, feeling it was too backward-looking. He has cleared out all the old books and Hansards from the office's 1860 walnut bookcase and filled it with a Design Council display of modern gadgets.

His favourite is a clockwork radio, designed by Trevor Bayliss for use in poor countries, which he loves winding up. Twenty turns give two hours listening. The spirit of Cool Britannia appears to be invading the Foreign Office: he is delighted by the less "stuffy" atmosphere.

In spite of the adverse headlines — he said only that he wished some of the close attention to his private life had been focused instead on his public life — Mr Cook said that he had had a "wonderfully enriching and rewarding 10 months" in his job. Britain had become a strong influence in Europe and the world

again, Labour had built a stronger relationship with Washington than the Conservatives enjoyed.

The high point, however, appeared to be the British presidency. Although it may not have set the country alight, Mr Cook was clearly happy with the way it had gone, so far. Britain had organised competently, effectively and with "flair and panache" a number of historic milestones in the EU, most notably enlargement.

"We have managed during our presidency to cement the constructive partnership in Europe which we promised at the last election. You will not find any capital which now doubts that the new Labour

Mr Cook pointed to recent initiatives on Algeria, Kosovo, Bosnia and Israel (to give new impetus to the Middle East peace process) as evidence of how, under British direction, the EU had achieved what it had often failed to do in the past: a common foreign policy. Even on Iraq, where Britain was closer to America than many in Europe wanted, it is arguable that Mr Cook's insistence on a new UN resolution, much to the dismay of Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, led to the Kofi Annan visit that, for the time being at least, staved off hostilities.

But the jewel in the presidency crown will be enlargement. The

table. I want those 11 new nations to know that they came in with British support and to know that we used our presidency to give them a flying start," Mr Cook said.

The other five — Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Latvia and Lithuania — were by no means second class candidates. Britain supported negotiations with them and they would be allowed to catch up if they were eligible.

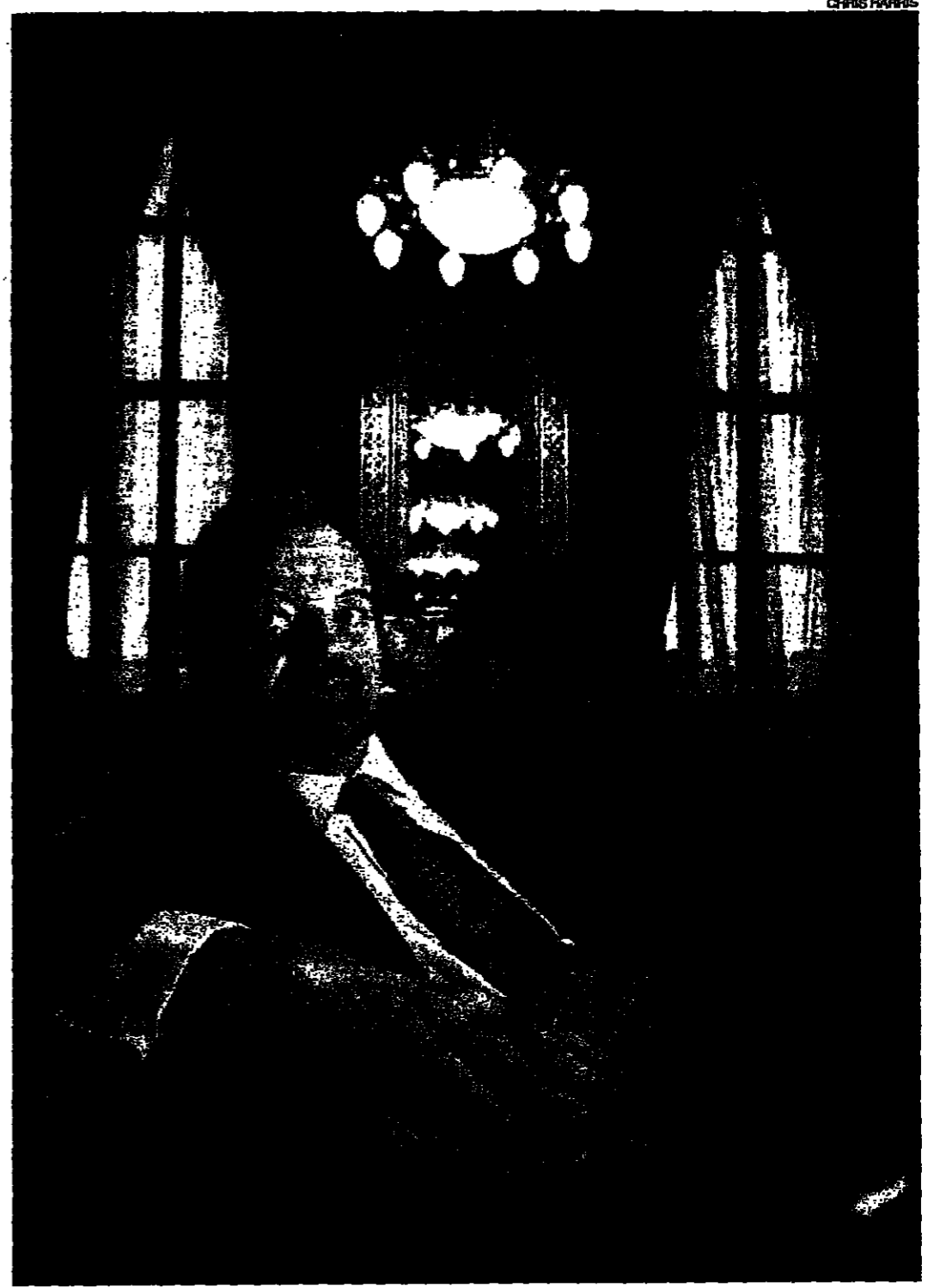
Enlargement could be used to force the EU into making the long-demanded changes to the CAP and regional funds "because Europe makes changes best when it is up against a deadline". Mr Cook wants the Cardiff summit in June to give clear instructions on the direction of reform.

He said that neither Europe nor the world had grasped the enormous change that will soon come about. The EU will have increased its land mass by half as much again, and its population. "It will be a bigger, stronger Europe, with more clout in international trade. It will also be a united Europe that has finally put behind it the divisions that have scared it for the last half century."

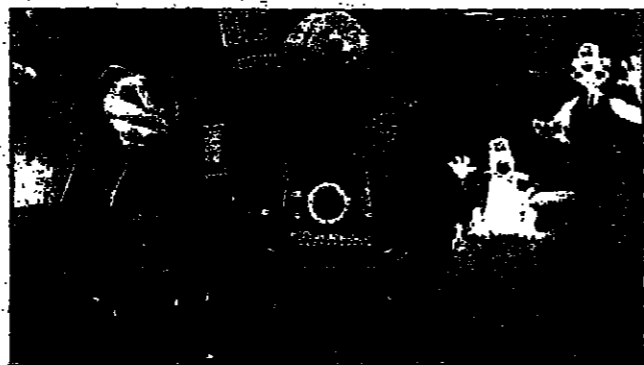
The process would increase trading opportunities for all and stability across central Europe would bolster everyone's security. It would mean big changes in the way the EU institutions work — "you cannot have an EU of 26 members operating on a structure designed for six" — and Mr Cook said that the most likely change was a reweighting of voting in the EU decision-making councils to give the larger countries such as Britain a bigger say. He did not anticipate fresh moves to weaken the much-prized veto beyond those areas that Britain had already indicated it would accept.

Looking back on recent history, he thought that the Maastricht treaty negotiated by John Major would, ironically, turn out to be the "high tide mark" for integrationist pressure in Europe. "Since then the countries of Europe have come to recognise it is important that we reconnect the European project with the peoples of Europe, which is why Labour's people's agenda is proving so popular."

Mr Cook did not believe that the EU failed over Iraq. Half the states had been prepared to take part in



Robin Cook in his office, which he is enjoying bringing up to date with modern gadgets



Gadgets from the Design Council lighten the atmosphere

Cook felt that the ancient picture of a Nepalese maharaja adorning his office wall was far too backward-looking

Government has transformed Britain's relations with Europe and made Britain once again a leading player at the heart of Europe, rather than an isolated offshore island cut out of the key decision making.

Ignoring the fact that the so-called Euro X Club — the 11 countries that will form the first wave of the single currency — will soon start meeting without Britain,

accession process will be launched today when ministers from the 11 potential new entrants meet foreign ministers. Tomorrow, the accession negotiations with the six frontrunners — Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovenia and Cyprus — will begin.

It will be important for Europe and for Britain. "When the day comes some time in the next decade when there are 26 nations around

military preparations and there had been a general consensus behind the approach taken in the run up to the Amman mission. Britain had shown leadership at the UN and helped to restore some of its authority in world affairs.


Even on Israel and the furious government reaction to his visit to the Har Homa settlement, Mr Cook appeared sanguine and was utterly unrepentant. Settlements

were the cause of the peace process stalemate and the trip had been planned to highlight the problem. "We could ignore it no longer if the process was to be got back on track," he said.

He regretted and was hurt by accusations of anti-semitism. That was plainly untrue: there was nothing anti-semitic about wanting the peace process to move forward. Mr Cook himself is looking

forward to three more months in the presidency and a private event that will probably take place during the Easter recess. He will say nothing more about his forthcoming wedding. And he hopes that in the next 12 months there will be more attention on his public life than his private one.

Israel warning, page 12
Leading article, page 21



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Buenoano: known as the Black Widow

Florida woman faces chair

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

BARRING last-minute appeals, a 54-year-old Florida mother is due later this morning to become the first woman in the state's history to be executed in the electric chair, and also the first female to be electrocuted in the United States since 1957.

Judy Buenoano, dubbed the "Black Widow", was sentenced to death in 1985 after being convicted of poisoning her husband and a boyfriend, and of drowning her 19-year-old paraplegic son.

Buenoano is one of only six women among 383 prisoners on Florida's death row. The state has not executed a woman since 1848.

Buenoano's fate has not aroused the same attention as that of Karla Faye Tucker, executed in Texas last month. That is chiefly because the Florida woman was found guilty of murderous activity over almost a decade, and does not claim innocence.

Buenoano's husband, James Goodyear, died in 1971 and Buenoano collected \$95,000 in life insurance and death benefits. After she moved in with her boyfriend, he also grew ill and died. When a third companion started feeling sick after taking vitamins Buenoano gave him, poison was found in his body. He survived, but investigators learnt that Buenoano stood to gain \$200,000.

Foul-mouthed Americans don't have a nice day

THE coarsening of America, a startling national decline in civility, has prompted calls for a crusade to mend the nation's often foul-mouthed manners and lack of courtesy.

The world of the Rude American, where drivers scream at each other in the grip of road rage, workplace wars escalate into violence, and abusive "shock jocks" dominate the airwaves, was examined in detail at a three-day conference that ended yesterday.

The civility project was the latest effort towards a more polite society, following a campaign launched by Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor of New York, and efforts in Washington to reduce rancorous exchanges in Congress.

Held at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, the conference drew more than 200 professors, specialists and

Stress has led to a bad-mannered war of words, says Ian Brodie in Washington

students who agreed — with the utmost courtesy — that it was time for a crusade against national nastiness.

"It's a major problem caused by our living in a world full of strangers and stress," said Pier-Massimo Forni, an Italian classics professor who teaches a course on civility and co-directed the conference.

"Stress is behind the wheel of a car, it's at work, it never leaves us," he said. Just as bad, Americans were losing

touch with neighbours and were surrounded by anonymity so that inducements to good behaviour had disappeared.

A survey showed that nine out of ten Americans believe that the loss of manners contributes to violence. Aggressive driving is responsible for a third of car crashes and two-thirds of the 42,000 annual road deaths, according to government estimates.

Professor Forni has found that antagonisms at work are provoked by worries over cutbacks, long hours, and often intense competition. At their most extreme, workplace wars can erupt into violence. Several frustrated US post office workers have opened fire on colleagues, and the term "going postal" has become an American idiom.

The Baltimore conference was devoted not to discussions on which fork to use, but a scholarly assessment of the relevance of manners in society today, and on the need for civility and understanding between ethnic groups.

There were no easy answers, but there was a lively debate on whether political correctness was a form of politeness gone awry. The university president, William Brody, said that civility should not stifle frank discourse and intellectual disagreement. Universities must remain free arenas of thought, and not allow concerns over ruffling feathers to put matters of vital importance beyond the pale. Difficult questions should be discussed even at the risk of touching sensitive nerves. Dr Brody said.

Mr Giuliani's campaign to improve New Yorkers' famously abrasive manners by turning down stereotypes and saying thank you has won praise, but also drawn attention to his own explosive temperament. He fumed at reporters who caught him speeding.

Judith Martin, who writes an etiquette column under the pen name Miss Manners, told the conference that new rules of civility were one of the most pressing issues of the day.

Zero tolerance traps New York drivers

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

NEW York's Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, is applying the brakes to the city's manic motorists with the first in a series of zero tolerance days in which all traffic infractions are penalised.

Phalanxes of police officers wielding radar guns fanned out to 20 traffic blackspots last week and workmen began putting up 1,100 new signs displaying 30mph limits.

At one intersection, officers erected a large screen linked to radar to tell motorists how fast they were travelling. By the end of the day, police had issued more than 600 summonses — more than three times the usual number.

But the *New York Daily News* reported its own survey that found more than 80 per cent of vehicles still exceeded the speed limit.

Mr Giuliani, a Republican, has started campaigning for the White House in 2000 with



Giuliani caught speeding in city by reporter

the promise that, having slashed New York's crime rate, he can now transform the city's neurotic residents into normal, law-abiding human beings. The mayor, whose own car was recently clocked travelling over the speed limit by a reporter, spent the day in Washington.



The Clintons, with the Rev Jesse Jackson, during Mass at the Soweto church

Clinton's Soweto prayers met by sermon on adultery

PRESIDENT CLINTON spent the last hours of his four-day visit to South Africa in a Roman Catholic church where he took Communion and listened to a sermon on adultery.

For almost two hours Mr Clinton was in the packed Regina Mundi Church in Johannesburg's bleak Soweto township. He was given a rousing welcome by the 1,000-strong ululating congregation, to the strains of *America the Beautiful*. Regina Mundi served as a refuge to blacks during the last years of uprising against white rule. Mr Clinton, with his wife Hillary and a delegation of American officials, looked relaxed and

acknowledged the crowd as he entered. But he became visibly uncomfortable when the priest, Father Mkhobeni Makobane, recounted the episode of the adulterous woman who was saved by Christ from a death by stoning. Mr Clinton looked sombre.

"There may be among us many ... who may feel unworthy," Father Makobane said in a sermon after the reading. "Here was a woman who people said committed adultery, but Jesus said go and sin no more. Many times we find ourselves being caught up hiding our love from the public ... But we have to know that God is love. And this love which is God

himself is the love to the world ... the love to Africa, or Latin America ... that all of us need to share."

President Clinton later arrived in Botswana, where an aide announced plans to launch a new African service of the Voice of America radio station to promote democracy and respect for human rights on the continent. **Mandela's praise:** Interviewed by the BBC's David Frost, President Mandela praised the Clintons, as "people with the right instincts". However, Mr Mandela said that he "had to state my position" during Mr Clinton's visit to South Africa. *Reuters/APF*

President 'withheld' crucial Willey letters

BY IAN BRODIE

AN ACCUSATION has been made against President Clinton of obstructing justice by withholding letters and notes from Kathleen Willey until after she publicly complained he had groped her.

Last December a request by lawyers for Paula Jones for documents relating to Mrs Willey was rejected by Mr Clinton's lawyers, who said none was in his possession. However, within 12 hours of her national television interview, the White House released 15 letters and notes from her showing that she remained in friendly correspondence with the President after his alleged pass.

"The allegation was made in court documents filed by lawyers for Mrs Jones, the former Arkansas state employee who accuses Mr Clinton of sexual harassment. The documents were in response to a brief from the President's lawyers urging the judge in Little Rock to dismiss the Jones case for lack of substance.

In one note she called him her "No 1 fan". The general effect of Mrs Willey's affectionate tone was to undercut the credibility of her televised complaint.

Mrs Jones's lawyers complained that the swift production of the letters for the media showed there had been a "gross suppression" of evidence that amounted to "outright mendacity" and a "vast enterprise" to obstruct justice. The failure to hand over the Willey documents does fall into a pattern of White House tardiness in responding to court-ordered requests. In this case, Mr Clinton and his lawyers may have tripped over their own feet in their eagerness to debunk Mrs Willey's account.

Agent sought: Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, is pursuing a Secret Service agent who has told colleagues he saw Mr Clinton and Monica Lewinsky in a compromising situation, according to *Time* magazine today. Mr Starr hopes to compel the agent to testify.

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Germans fall out of love with Europe as Kohl train hits the buffers

Helmut Kohl's European train — the one we were all supposed to catch — has run out of steam. That may seem a strange assertion in a crowning week for German diplomacy: the euro has been given the go-ahead even by a grudging Bundesbank and negotiations begin in a few days for the eastward enlargement of Europe. Both of these epochal events are happening on German terms.

However, the euro could be a devastating flop; enlargement will be difficult, divisive and will transform Germany from popular champion of the East to unpopular sumpire. This is the new era of

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

The fundamental problem — of the euro and enlargement seeming to divide rail-

er than to unite the continent — has been with us for some time. But it was assumed that Germany, which has most at stake, would summon the energy, the cash and the political will to keep Europe on track. That is no longer a safe assumption. Germany's European policy now has three targets: to speed enlargement eastwards, to resist major reform of the common agricultural policy and to reduce significantly its budget contributions to the EU. These are contradictory goals and can only lead, if pursued simultaneously, to stalemate.

Partly the election campaign is to blame. The Bavarian Christian Social Union

said at the weekend that it would accept the euro, but increasingly it is setting itself against Chancellor Kohl. Bavarian regional elections are two weeks before the general election in September and it has been made clear that the Chancellor would not be a welcome campaigner. This is the season when the political clout of farmers is at its strongest. They are threatening a peasants' revolt against the Agenda 2000 reforms.

German chancellors have been hostage to south German farmers for decades. But the elections are not a complete explanation for the Euro-

cynicism that is so quickly replacing the Euro-passion of the early 1990s. Since the death of François Mitterrand, Helmut Kohl has become an increasingly passive actor in Europe.

Remember the energy that was packed into the controversial Christian Democratic paper on a hardcore Europe? Remember how monetary union could only function if there were a true political union? German zeal has fizzled out.

Instead, ministers and lobbying groups define their own European issues and choose their own battlefield. The call by Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, for a bud-

get rebate is of course supposed to endear him to his Christian Social Union colleagues. Everybody knows it is an illogical demand but they let him strut his stuff.

The farmers' lobby has been blocking for four years the implementation of a new natural protection law that puts in place a conservation guideline of the European Union. They are trying to extort about £8 million in compensation from the Commission. Now Brussels is threatening fines.

There are 108 European directives that have still not been implemented; Germany is at the bottom of the list. Günter Rexrodt, the Econom-

ics Minister, says structural help costs too much — yet he refuses to accept cuts in European subsidies for western Germany or Berlin (Herr Rexrodt's power base).

The Commission is investigating the use of subsidies in companies such as Volkswagen, Vulkan, Buma, Leuna — and there are many more cases of dubious financing. Britain could once reckon on Germany as a natural ally in defending the free market and deregulation. Today the two countries bicker over state subsidies for German coal.

When was the last time

Herr Kohl lost his temper? Some say it was when Karci van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, stopped a merger between Kirch and Bertelsmann. The Chancellor slammed his desk and said something like: "We'll show them!"

This progression from European visionary to guard dog of national interests makes it slightly easier for Britain to deal with the Chancellor. But there is a hidden price. The combination of an unpopular euro, uncertainty about Eastern Europe and dogged conflicts with the Commission is making anti-Europeans out of many Germans.

Communists to reject 'immature' Yeltsin nominee

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S opposition-dominated parliament was set on a collision course with the Kremlin yesterday after Gennadi Zyuganov, the Russian Communist Party leader, rejected President Yeltsin's nomination for Prime Minister.

In defiance of Mr Yeltsin's warning that he could dissolve the Duma — the lower house — if it did not confirm his nominee, Mr Zyuganov, whose party has the largest number of seats in the chamber, said that Sergei Kiriyenko, the acting Prime Minister, was not up to the job.

"We cannot confirm just anyone for the country's second most important post," said the Communist leader, who will instruct his 138 deputies to vote against the confirmation, scheduled for Friday.

"With a seriously ill president, the situation could arise where the Prime Minister would have to take charge of the nuclear briefcase," he said. "To trust such an unknown and immature figure would be the height of irresponsibility — something that those pushing Sergei Kiriyenko forward for

prime minister refuse to acknowledge."

On Friday Mr Yeltsin formally named the 35-year-old former Energy Minister and predicted that he would boost the country's lagging reform process. Critics say that Mr Kiriyenko, who has had less than a year's experience of central government, lacks the authority to push difficult legislation through parliament, tackle regional issues and take over the country if necessary.

Under Russia's constitution, parliament has three chances to approve a Prime Minister. After that the Duma is dissolved and fresh elections are held. Mr Yeltsin said on Friday that he would not hesitate to dismiss the Duma if it rejected his candidate — a move Mr Zyuganov described yesterday as "blackmail".

Despite the threats and counter-threats, experience has shown that the Duma does usually back down against the Kremlin. But in this case, Mr Kiriyenko could face a stormy political period before winning confirmation.

His brief tenure in office has not been helped by evidence that he was a last-minute

choice for the job. By his own admission, he was on his way to his daughter's eighth birthday last week when told that he had been chosen to take over the Government from Viktor Chernomyrdin, who was sacked. The Kremlin originally announced that Mr Yeltsin would take over prime ministerial powers, until it was pointed out that he was not allowed to under the constitution.

Although Mr Chernomyrdin's dismissal was widely regarded as the end of his political career, he surprised observers at the weekend by announcing his candidacy for the next presidential elections scheduled for 2000.

Speaking in a television interview on Saturday night, Mr Chernomyrdin, who had been regarded as the natural successor to Mr Yeltsin, said he had taken the decision in consultation with Mr Yeltsin.

Suspicious have been voiced that the Russian leader may be planning to run for a third term in office. The move would contravene the constitution's two-term limit on the head of state, and could prove fatal for an elderly leader with a history of health problems.



The perfectly preserved body of a 5,300-year-old man discovered by hikers in the Dolomites went on public display at the weekend in the archaeological museum in Bolzano in the Italian Tyrol. It was placed in a specially constructed refrigerated display case after a seven-year custody battle between Italy and Austria

Italy puts the Ice Man on show

(Richard Owen writes) But the German couple who discovered the mummified corpse — dubbed "the Ice Man" — said they were taking legal action against the authorities in Bolzano to obtain a "reward" of

£150,000 for finding the remains. The Ice Man, also known as Ötzi, after the Ötztal Valley where he was found, appeared during a thaw in the Similaun glacier. Visitors can see the hunter as he was when he died, his

head resting on his left arm and his legs slightly twisted, suggesting he fell asleep from exhaustion and died of exposure. He carried a wooden bow, a copper axe and a stone dagger. His food consisted of a piece of meat and berries. Carbon dating tests show he lived and died sometime between 3325 and 3108BC.

Communists look set for victory in Ukrainian election

BY RICHARD BEESTON

UKRAINIAN voters went to the polls yesterday in an election that could see sweeping gains for the communist opposition, setting back further the country's limping reform process. As reports

from polling stations recorded a strong turnout, it was widely expected that the Communist Party of Ukraine, the main group opposed to President Kuchma, would emerge victorious in a crowded field of 30 political parties.

Mr Kuchma, who has been

in constant battle with the Rada, the Ukrainian parliament, since his victory in 1994, vowed that he would cooperate with whoever the voters chose. "From the beginning (of the new parliament), the President and the Government will do everything possible and impossible to build co-operation," he said.

Although opinion polls are banned in Ukraine two weeks before polling day, recent surveys suggest that the communists, the best organised of the opposition groups, would emerge victorious thanks in

part to public dissatisfaction with the country's poor economic performance. While Mr Kuchma has tamed inflation and introduced a stable currency, the Government owes huge arrears in wages and pensions to millions of Ukrainians.

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Albright condemns 'phoney' peace talks

OPPOSITION Labour politicians in Israel last night demanded an emergency recall of the Knesset from its Passover recess to debate pessimistic claims by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, that the peace process is close to total collapse and her warning of a potential "explosion of violence" in 1999.

Israel Radio quoted Ms Albright as making her grim forecast to American Jewish leaders in a telephone call at the weekend in which she tried to rally their support behind a new US peace initiative that has so far been spurned by the right-wing Government led by Benjamin Netanyahu.

Under the terms of the US blueprint being put to both Israel and the Palestinians by Dennis Ross, the US special envoy, Israel would hand over a further 13 per cent of the West Bank in exchange for specific security guarantees by the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader is also demanding a settlement freeze, which Israel has flatly refused.

America is losing patience with both sides in stalled negotiations, writes

Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

The new Washington plan is designed to rescue the peace talks which have been deadlocked for over 12 months since Israel began building a settlement for 32,000 Jews at Har Homa in Arab east Jerusalem.

"The peace process is in trouble. We cannot continue this way. We are not interested in a phoney process and I do not think you want a process like that either," Ms Albright was quoted as saying. "One option is simply for us to remove ourselves from the process."

The blunt US warning followed two tense telephone calls between Mr Netanyahu and President Clinton in which the Israeli leader tried to persuade the President to drop the US plan, or at least not make it public.

Ms Albright's description of current Middle East dangers came over a weekend in which five Palestinians, including two members of the PLO executive committee, were wounded by Israeli rubber bullets during a protest near Nablus.

Israel has announced that army and police reinforcements have been rushed to the West Bank, Gaza and Israeli Arab areas of Israel proper in anticipation of violent protests today, the annual Arab "Land Day" marking the date 22 years ago when five Palestinians were killed while protesting an Israeli land seizure in Galilee.

According to Israel Radio, Ms Albright told the Jewish leaders that if no peace agreement is signed between Israel and the Palestinians by next

year — the Oslo deadline for completion of what are known as "final status talks" — an "explosion of violence" was likely which would threaten the security of Israel.

The Secretary of State said that the new US initiative took account of Israel's security needs. But David Bar-Illan, Mr Netanyahu's spokesman, said: "We are a little puzzled because while Ms Albright says that they have taken into account Israel's security concerns, the US Administration seems to still believe it can still decide the percentage of the land that we can withdraw from."

Israeli sources say the Israeli Cabinet has balked at a 13.1 per cent further withdrawal as insisted on by the US and a further third pull-back before the final negotiations begin. The Israelis are understood to have offered just under 10 per cent, while the PLO was originally demanding a further 30 per cent of the West Bank in addition to the 27 per cent already under its partial or total control.



Saddam Hussein prays during a visit to northern Iraq for his country's "heroic endurance to be rewarded with victory". UN weapons inspectors and diplomats were meanwhile visiting a presidential palace in Tikrit

Dead Sea site yields oldest synagogue

By Christopher Walker

ISRAELI archaeologists yesterday claimed to have uncovered the world's oldest known synagogue, in an Israeli-occupied area of the West Bank close to the Palestinian self-rule town of Jericho.

According to Ehud Netzer of Jerusalem's Hebrew University, who is in charge of the dig, the synagogue within the complex of a Hasmonean winter palace was built between 75BC and 50BC during the reign of Queen Salome or one of her sons, and later destroyed by an earthquake in 31BC.

At the site, the Israeli team discovered the first evidence supporting ancient accounts that ceremonial meals, as well as prayers, were held in synagogues.

"It was a bit like a community centre," said Professor Netzer. "We know the Bible was read three times a week, but there was also a room attached to the synagogue where religious meals were served."

The spectacular winter palace was first discovered by Mr Netzer 25 years ago. Excavations at the 12.5-acre site not far from the Dead Sea, were resumed this year.

Holocaust bank deal causes Swiss row

From Peter Capella in Geneva

A TENTATIVE deal by the three largest Swiss banks to settle legal actions by Holocaust survivors in America has caused an uproar in Switzerland amid accusations that the banks are worried more about balance sheets than a lasting solution to the affair.

The deal postpones a threatened boycott by leading US state and city treasurers, due to come into force on Wednesday, while the banks, lawyers for the plaintiffs and the World Jewish Congress (WJC) work out the details. Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corporation — merging later this year — and Credit Suisse are heavily involved in the multi-billion dollar US market for investment banking.

The banks agreed last week to negotiate a settlement with survivors and their relatives over accounts allegedly never returned by the banks. But the WJC wants the deal to be part of a global settlement involving the Swiss.

The deal has soured relations between the banks and the Swiss Government.

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THE TIMES MONDAY MARCH 30 1998

Delhi declares war on corrupt political elite

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S new Hindu nationalist Government opens for business today after narrowly surviving a confidence vote in parliament — a victory contrived by its divided opponents, who are in no state to face another political crisis.

The new administration plans to bombard the Lok Sabha (lower house) with legislation designed to lift the spirits of a nation demoralised by its politicians. One proposal is to enact a transparency law — desperately needed in a country where there are no poor politicians.

The 760 members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha (upper house), who officially earn about 1,500 rupees (£23) a month, mostly live opulent lifestyles. They are allocated splendid government houses, which many sublet for thousands of pounds a month. It is notoriously difficult to re-

press accommodation from defeated politicians, many of whom continue to occupy the premises years after they cease to be MPs.

Politicians have an official telephone allowance of £1,500 a year, but there is no serious compulsion on them to pay for any telephone calls, regardless of the amount — nor for any electricity or water bills. Nationalised banks are required to offer loans to MPs for the purchase of anything regarded as job-related.

Corruption never mattered much to voters until now, because it was never so brazen. Public disgust with the high lives of politicians has convinced Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister, that confidence must be restored through legislation to expose politicians' financial standing to greater public scrutiny.

That may be impossible to

enforce, but it is the first time a politician of such stature has taken so seriously the collapse of public confidence in elected representatives. The Government may also introduce freedom of information legislation to help journalists and others to uncover government incompetence.

Mr Vajpayee won the confidence vote by 274 to 261 after the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, a regional party from the southern state of Tamil Nadu, threw its 11 MPs behind him. The opposition Congress Party was secretly determined to ensure that the Government survived. It will probably take a year or two for opposition parties to regroup sufficiently to pose a credible threat.

The parliamentary debate, often rowdy, focused on allegations that the governing Bharatiya Janata Party had a secret agenda to push extrem-



Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Indian Prime Minister, arrives at the parliament building in Delhi, where he later survived a confidence vote

ist Hindu policies at the behest of its more fanatical supporters, including the infamous Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh (National Volunteer League, or RSS). Chandra Shekhar, a former Prime Min-

ister, told MPs that the RSS was "clearly pro-Hind and against giving Muslims equal treatment in India". There is nothing so far, however, to suggest that the BJP will be remote-controlled by its ex-

tre sister parties, if only because it is so weak in parliament. Mr Vajpayee acknowledged that the RSS would be consulted on important issues but added: "We are not the types to get remote-

controlled. We will take our own decisions."

Mr Vajpayee has been seeking to persuade domestic and foreign commentators that he will press a moderate agenda and that investors have not-

ing to fear from a BJP-led Government. He told MPs that he would stick to the national agenda published last week — a middle-of-the-road document containing almost nothing controversial.

US rape victims to testify in Guatemala

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN GUATEMALA CITY

FIVE American schoolgirls, raped in January after being dragged off their tour bus on the Guatemalan Pacific highway, will take the witness stand here this summer and confront their alleged tormentors in court, it was reported yesterday.

The trial of the four men will focus international attention on Guatemala's calamitous crime situation, which observers believe is the worst in the country's turbulent history. Two of the accused men are former soldiers — demobilised under the 1996 peace pact which ended a 36-year civil war. Many Guatemalans see the trial of the pair as a trial of the country's peace process itself.

Nearly 15,000 soldiers, about a third of the total, were made redundant by the army after the accord was signed, and some local reports suggest that as many as a tenth are now criminals. Nearly 4,000 guerrillas laid down their arms as well, and a significant number — perhaps as many as 300 — also turned to crime. There have been more than 4,000 murders in Guatemala since Jan-

uary 1997, and over a hundred kidnappings for ransom. Only yesterday, evangelical groups from across the country converged on Monjes, an eastern town, to hold a vigil for a kidnapped teenage sportsman.

Armed robberies occur daily on the highways and in the cities. Even villagers in the remote highlands, previously affected not by crime but by the brutal civil war, now live in dread of gun-toting bands of looters.

6. The real culprits are the former soldiers. They are trained, ruthless and out of work.

the economics editor of *Cronica*, the country's most popular news magazine, said: "The real culprits are the ex-soldiers. They are trained, ruthless and out of work."

Other observers are less ready to blame former soldiers. Fernando Diéguez, a political editor at *Prensa Libre*, the country's foremost daily newspaper, said: "I think they may have started the wave by setting the example. But once other delinquent bands saw how crimes could be committed, and how easy it was to commit them, it became a problem across society."

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Ugandan women try to curb multiple marriages

FROM DAVID ORR IN KAMPALA

WHEN Allen Kyomugisha was married according to tribal customary law in 1989 she had little reason to expect that she would remain her husband's only wife. Polygamy is common among Uganda's Anko people, of which she is a member, and the Buganda, her husband's tribe.

So she was not overly surprised when in 1993, after the birth of their three children, her husband took a second wife. The most she hoped for was that he would treat both spouses fairly. Her hopes were in vain, however, and now Mrs Kyomugisha, 29, is pursuing a maintenance claim against her husband.

"My husband neglected me and our children," Mrs Kyomugisha said. "He pays more attention to his second wife and child. Polygamy is bad because a husband cannot divide himself equally between two wives."

Legislation is being drafted in Uganda to impose strict conditions on men wishing to take two or more wives. The Law Reform Commission recommends that, before a man can take another wife, he must prove in court that his spouse is either sterile or incapable of having sexual relations. The recommendations also say he must show that he has the means to support more than one wife and their offspring; that he can provide separate houses for each wife and that he has his wife's consent to another marriage.

Current domestic relations legislation allows Muslims to have as many as four wives. Men married under African customary rites can have an unlimited number.

"We don't want to upset our Muslim friends," said Sir Harold Platt, a retired British judge who is chairman of the commission. "What we're trying to do is to establish the conditions for polygamy which will ensure just treatment for everyone under the constitution." The 1995 constitution ensures gender equality at the same time as cultural rights and religious freedom.

Sir Harold's attempts at reconciliation, however, have failed to impress many leaders in the Muslim community, which makes up about 10 per cent of the population.

"We're not saying that all Muslims must have more than one wife," says Abasi Kiyimba, an academic and Islamic activist. "It's just that we can't accept any law that lumps everyone together when we know we're different."

Margaret Oguli-Oumo, Commissioner for Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Gender, believes that polygamy is outdated practice with nothing to offer women. "I am against polygamy," said Mrs Oguli-Oumo, whose grandfather had seven wives. "It affects women's dignity. There is no peace in a home with several wives quarrelling and competing for affection and material benefits. Children inevitably get caught up in the conflict."



Deng Qi-lu, a peasant aged about 40, who has been found by Chinese reporters caged like an animal in the village of Beitian in southern Guangdong province. The reporters said he attacked a police officer 10 years ago and has been caged without trial for five years because the police think him mentally unstable

US tries to limit war crimes court

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United States, fearing its servicemen could be put on trial, is seeking strict limits on the powers of the planned International Criminal Court that will try the war crimes of the next century.

While President Clinton was endorsing the new world court after meeting genocide survivors in Rwanda last week, American diplomats were busy lobbying at United Nations headquarters to circumscribe its authority.

Human rights activists complained that new American proposals would "straitjacket" the court to such an extent that war criminals in future conflicts could be shielded from investigation and prosecution. The world's first universal criminal court — the successor to the

Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals after the Second World War and today's international courts on Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia — is due to be established at a conference in Rome in mid-June.

Diplomats from more than 100 countries meeting in New York to draft the court's statute have agreed that it should cover at least three "core crimes" — genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

As negotiations enter their final stages, however, such divisive issues as the power of the international prosecutor and the court's relation to the UN Security Council remain unresolved. The 175-page draft statute, which has 99 articles, contains about 1,700 "brackets" indicating areas of disagreement. At the

insistence of the Pentagon, the United States is resisting any proposal that would give the future court power to try American servicemen without an effective US veto over the proceedings.

The US military fears a repeat of previous threats by America's foes to put US soldiers in the dock for war crimes allegedly committed in Vietnam, Central America and Iraq.

Jesse Helms, Republican chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, said that any treaty that failed to give Washington veto power would be "dead-on-arrival" when sent for ratification.

Last week, Britain proposed rules that would give the court — not governments — final power to decide which evidence, and witnesses could be denied on the grounds of national security.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Aid aircraft crash kills at least 28

Lima: At least 28 people were killed when a Peruvian Air Force plane on a civilian aid mission crashed between two shantytowns yesterday in the northern city of Piura, President Fujimori said. The Russian-made Antonov was about a mile from Piura airport when it hit a flood canal and broke in two, witnesses said. Fifteen people survived.

The aircraft was heading for a populated area until the pilot made a last-minute change in direction. The plane grazed two buildings, and one adult and a child in one of them were seriously injured. The aircraft was carrying 50 adults and six children from the storm-hit border town of Tumbes and five crew members. (AFP)

UK firemen for Malaysia

London: Britain is to send a team of firemen and six of the latest fire engines to Malaysia to help fight forest fires that are again blanketing the region in smog (Michael Binyon writes). The initiative, to boost Europe's ties with East Asia, was announced by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, before leaders of the European Union and ten Asian nations arrive in London this week for the Asia-Europe summit. Three firemen from Strathclyde fire brigade will train Malaysian volunteer auxiliary firemen in firefighting techniques and dealing with environmental disasters.

Ranariddh to go home

Bangkok: Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who was overthrown as Cambodia's First Prime Minister last July, is to return to Cambodia today (James Pringle writes). He will be escorted by former US congressman Steven Solarz, UN officials and ambassadors of several countries. The prince was convicted in absentia earlier this month on charges of collaborating with the Khmer Rouge, but later pardoned by his father, the still popular King Norodom Sihanouk.

French rally against Right

Paris: In a backlash against the growing influence of the National Front, tens of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets to protest against electoral deals between conservative politicians and the party of the extreme Right (Ben Macintyre writes). Nearly 30,000 Paris marchers shouted anti-NF slogans and condemned five Centre-Right UDF members who won regional polls with NF backing.

Seoul aid for sex slaves

Seoul: South Korea will compensate women who were enslaved in Japanese army brothels in the Second World War, then recover the money from Tokyo, officials said. The Government plans to offer 38 million won (£15,000) to each of the 155 former sex slaves registered in South Korea. Tokyo will not officially compensate such women, saying a government-initiated private fund is paying them. (AP)

Ancient Buddha is stolen

Beijing: The oldest stone statue of Buddha in Beijing, a priceless 1,500-year-old treasure, has been stolen, the official Chinese news agency Xinhua said. The 5ft 4in-high statue was prized from its base with crowbars. Carved in 499 AD, it had stood ever since in the same stone house in the village of Dongyueying in western Beijing. The family that had looked after it for four generations raised the alarm. (Reuters)



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Mr and Mrs Allen are aged 45 and 47 and live in Liverpool. They have two children who are at school. Sarah (16) is entering the sixth form this year. Mr Allen is a politician and Mrs Allen a college lecturer. The Allens are attracted to the flexibility of a Personal Choice Mortgage and the free remortgage package because Mrs Allen is going to become self-employed and work from home providing special care for senior students.

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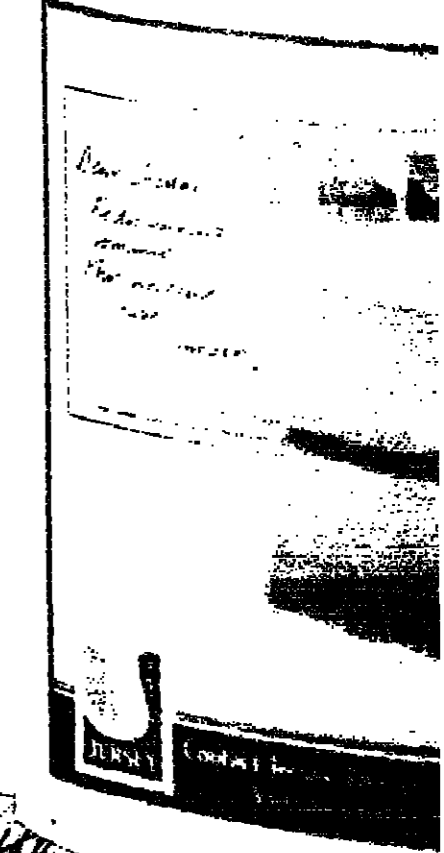
Susan Oliver is aged 29 and single. She lives in Oxford and works as a freelance journalist. Susan intends studying for an MBA while continuing her work and remortgaging her flat with a loan of £35,000 against a value of £65,000. She will raise capital of £10,000 with her Personal Choice Mortgage and use it to help fund her studies. The free remortgage package and flexibility were key factors in her decision to switch her mortgage to Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct.

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A brief history of time? It's all in your mind

How long ago did Elizabeth Hurley burst into the public consciousness with that dress? Two years ago? Perhaps three? She wore it to the premiere of *Four Weddings and a Funeral* in May 1994.

The chances are that you, like many people I asked, guessed 1995 or 1996. What this shows is that our perception of time distorts as we get older. While toddlers must endure an eternity between birthdays, university acquaintances can meet a decade later without realising how many years have passed.

Where does our sense of time come from? Scientists have postulated that everyone has a cerebral pendulum, whose rhythm can change depending on brain activity. Dr Warren Meck and Matthew Matell, at Duke University in North Carolina, are working on a model of how such a clock might work. It is obvious, says Mr Matell, an experimental psychologist, that we can all keep time. "If you are playing a musical instrument, you don't need to look at your watch," he says. "You can tap out a rhythm without the prompting of an external cue."

Experiments with trained rats also show they can keep time, and their clock speeds up if the animals are given amphetamines or cocaine. "We assume it's the same for humans when they are taking amphetamines," says Mr Matell. "If they are asked to time one minute, only a few seconds will pass before they say the time is up. That suggests that something in the brain is guiding our perception of time."

Dopamine, a brain chemical, is the most likely explanation. Increased dopamine levels cause the pendulum to swing faster, while low dopamine levels slow it down. The level of this chemical dwindles with age, so the pendulum swings slower.

Mr Matell explains: "If you ask an older person to mentally time an hour, they will all overestimate it. To them, an hour feels like 40 minutes because their clock is running slower. That's why they think time passes so quickly."

Several months ago, Dr Peter Mangan, a psychologist in Virginia, showed that age altered the perception of time. He asked

New research has revealed that as we grow older, time appears to pass more quickly. Anjana Ahuja reports

seeing the red light starts the clock; the clock nudges us to change into gear.

The process is a loop — an action prompts the clock to be started, and then, after a time interval, we are prompted to perform another action, say checking whether the kettle is on. This loop can be seen in brain imaging experiments in both animals and people. The relevant bits of the brain, the cortex and the place where dopamine is produced, are activated when people are asked to judge time intervals.

The clock may also be involved in unusual cases where life appears to operate in slow motion. Accident victims often report this — damage to the relevant brain area, causing a rush of dopamine, may be to blame.

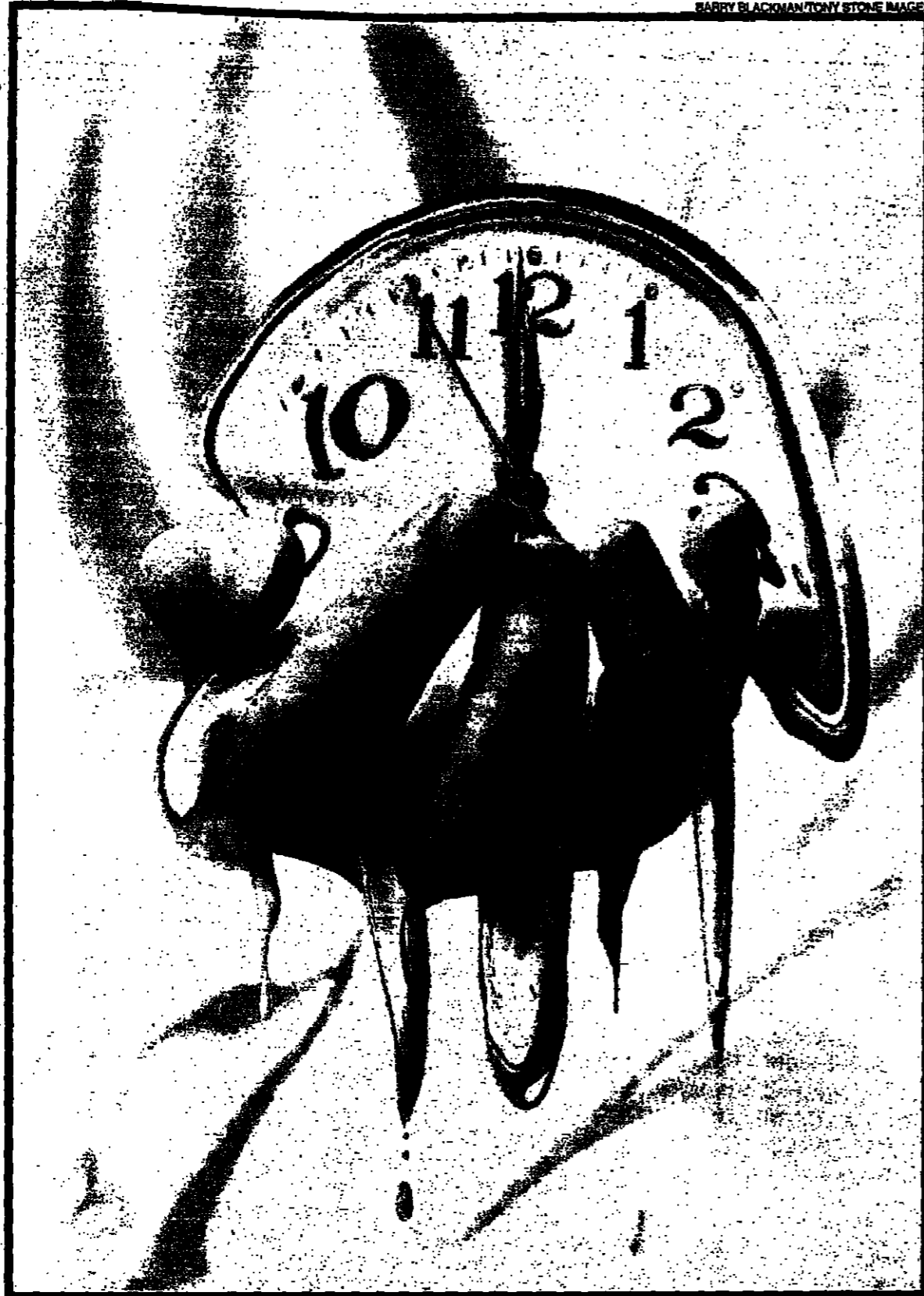
Patients with Parkinson's disease find it difficult to perceive time accurately — the disease is characterised by a lack of dopamine. Schizophrenia and dyslexia have also been associated with a skewed sense of time.

Human beings are not the only animals interested in keeping time. "Fish and birds can also measure time, showing it is a very ancient trait and that it must be fundamental to survival," says Dr Melissa Bateson, a colleague at Duke University.

Dr Bateson, who has studied starlings, says that being able to track time is probably important for associative learning. "They know that if they find a worm every other minute it's a good place to feed," Dr Bateson says. "That means the starlings have some way of measuring the rate at which they find food. If they find one worm every two hours, they are obviously not going to associate that particular field with food."

The clock changes when we are doing something. Dr Mangan found that every age group asked to judge a time interval while doing a task overestimated wildly. The over-estimates were the most surprised — they thought three minutes was up when, in fact, nearly five minutes had elapsed.

Mr Matell says: "When people are enjoying themselves, they don't pay attention to their internal clock." This is scientific proof that time flies when one is having fun.



Time on your hands? As we get older our perception of time distorts and it becomes difficult to measure

Smoking out the risk

PASSIVE smoking and its effects on health is a controversy that will not go away. Three weeks ago the Government's Scientific Committee on Tobacco and Health declared that clear evidence from studies involving thousands of people showed that passive smoking increased the risk of lung cancer by 26 per cent and the risk of heart disease by 23 per cent.

The report rested on studies published last year in the *British Medical Journal* by a team at St Bartholomew's Hospital and the Royal London School of Medicine. Tobacco companies expressed doubts about the quality of the evidence, but the Government is expected to draw heavily on it in preparing a White Paper on smoking, due out this summer.

Now a toxicologist unconnected with the tobacco industry, Professor Robert Nilsson of Stockholm University, has launched a powerful criticism of the science. The risk of contracting lung cancer from passive smoking is "extremely

small, or even negligible", he says. "Led by a strongly felt conviction that tobacco smoke is a major health risk, some scientists and physicians seem, to a varying degree, to have shelved their efforts to analyse the possible effects of environmental tobacco smoke in the rigorous and objective manner that scientific method requires." His criticisms, published as a working paper of the European Science and Environment Forum, are lengthy and detailed. Many of the studies that have been done are poor, he says, and the Barts team did, does not make them any better.

In considering heart disease, he says, they excluded one study that showed no effect, arguing that it differed

so greatly from the rest that it must be wrong, but included another study that did show increased risk, even though its difference from the rest was just as great.

One big source of error in such studies is "misclassification bias" — listing people as non-smokers who are in fact smokers, or ex-smokers. People often admit to smoking when they are healthy, but claim to be non-smokers as soon as they develop disease. The Barts team has underestimated this form of bias, according to Professor Nilsson.

He also questions the biological plausibility of the link between passive smoking and cancer. Several studies have shown that the cancers apparently caused by passive smoking are adenocarcinomas,

while the cancers caused by smoking are a different type. "It is biologically highly implausible that in contrast to all other known pulmonary carcinogens — including active smoking — environmental tobacco smoke should induce mainly adenocarcinomas."

Finally, there are the socio-economic issues. Smokers are more heavily concentrated in low-income groups, and eat less healthy diets. So living with a smoker means that you, too, eat a less healthy diet, which may contribute to lung cancer or heart disease. The Barts group fails to take sufficient account of this, says Professor Nilsson.

All in all, he doubts the case is proven. Worse, "the one-eyed preoccupation" with passive smoking by those who believe the end will justify any means may stop us finding out why some non-smokers do die of lung cancer. These include many women who develop adenocarcinomas, from causes that may have nothing to do with somebody else's cigarettes.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

PROZAC has a new use triggering spawning in clams and inducing zebra mussels to release their sperm or eggs in synchrony.

The discovery, which may be useful for commercial clam farmers, was made by Dr Peter Fong of Gettysburg College, and colleagues, and published in the *Journal of Experimental Zoology*. The trigger for spawning is serotonin,

and lifting depression. Clam farmers in America already use serotonin to trigger spawning, because it enables them to collect sperm and eggs and raise a uniform crop of offspring. But, Dr Fong says, Prozac is cheaper and more powerful.

At present, clam farmers use serotonin at 100,000 to 1 million times the concentrations at which Prozac and another antidepressant, Lovox, produced results in Dr Fong's experiments.

GENETICISTS have identified the genes which turn honey bees into vicious stingers. The invasion of "killer bees" from Latin America into the southern states of the United States has been followed with grim fascination, because they attack 20 times faster and deposit eight times as many stings in the first 20 seconds as do regular honey bees. They originated in Brazil after a bee-keeper imported some African bees which hybridised with local bees.

Dr Greg Huml, of Purdue University, Dr Robert Page, of the University of California, and Dr Ernesto Guzman-Novoa, of Mexico's agricultural research service, tracked the genes responsible by measuring the speed and intensity of stinging behaviour in 162 hybrid colonies.

They identified five genes linked to aggressive behaviour, and one that appears to control the tendency to sting.

The research, published in *Genetics*, could allow screening of queen bees to identify those which carry the genes, in an attempt to stop the spread of the vicious bees from the South West to other parts of the US. Most queens are raised in this area, because it is free of the parasitic diseases which have killed honey bees elsewhere.

Dear Shelley,
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ARTS
The trials of moving house — why so many plays these days are playing a theatrical transfer game
Pages 18 and 19

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Grey short-sleeved button-through cardigan, £79, by John Smedley, available at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Navy stretch pencil skirt with sequin trim and side zip, £99, by Joseph, 77 Fulham Road SW3, 0171-590 6200. Snake-skin high-heel sandals, £125, by Russell & Bromley, 24/25 New Bond Street W1



Above: Black knit camisole top, £100, by CK Calvin Klein, 55 New Bond Street, London W1, 0171-499 9696. Black crochet stretch skirt, £59.99, by Giant, available at Spill, Selfridges, Oxford Street W1 and House of Fraser Stores nationwide.

Above right: Black kitten heels, £185, by Gina. Burgundy knitted top, £220, and matching pencil skirt, £270, both by Gucci, 18 Sloane Street SW1, 0171-235 6707. Black pointed-toe kitten heel mules, £185, by Gina, 189 Sloane Street SW1 0171-235 6007.

Right: Grey and silver knit top, £69, by Joseph, 77 Fulham Road SW3, 0171-590 6200. Grey pencil skirt with side split, £90, by Patrick Cox Wannabe, 129 Sloane Street SW1.

Photographer: LUCY FITTER
Stylist: Nicola Goldie
Hair: Raphael Salley at Michaeljohn Management
Makeup: Jochen Fuchs at Michaeljohn Management
Model: Arita at Select



Grey zip-fronted jacket and matching pencil skirt, £283. Black jersey top, £88, all by Philosophy of Alberta Ferretti, 205-206 Sloane Street, London SW1, 0171-235 2349. Black leather shoes with silver buckle ankle strap, £150, by Patrick Cox, 8 Symonds Street London SW3

From Gucci to Versace, the pencil skirt is back, but this time the splits are higher than ever, writes Style Editor Grace Bradberry

If you have to work in an office every day, you can say a big hurrah — no more little petticoats. The fashion world is "over-lingerie and thank heaven for that, though the camisole top has stayed on as a little something to soften sportswear and give suiting a bit of oomph. But you can say one thing

for lingerie, at least it was fun, a wonderful, impractical rebellion against uniforms and dark suits, as were this winter's unholier-than-thou micro-minis. Only the brave dared, but the rest of us enjoyed the show. Now it's all over. Tom Ford, fashion's He Who Must Be Obeyed, has decreed that overt sexiness doesn't work any more.

Instead, he based his spring/summer '98 collection around the tailored lines of the pencil skirt, the hem falling on the knee or just below, little straps reaching up from the dropped waistband to curve round models' jutting hip bones.

Flat-fronted, with a manish trouser fastening, the Gucci pencil skirt is as in-your-face identifiable as Ford's minis were last season.

If you fall into one of the pencil skirt generations — the Fifties or Eighties — then its return will bring back waves of nostalgia. It is one of those items of clothing that is utterly fab to wear, grown-up but young and tarty, all at the same time. It begs a pair of slingbacks and a tight little sweater and induces an instant titter even in stompers. Marvellous, wonderful — but what, besides moth holes, is to stop you dragging the old ones out of the wardrobe?

Well, for starters, the pencil skirt has gone all post-modern. It comes in techno fabrics with a bit of a sheen, or is fringed, frayed and seamed into something stormingly futuristic. Alternatively, it's sporty, worn with flat pumps and a zip top. Besides Gucci's, the one to keep in mind is by Versace — Donatella, that is. Cut from a conservative Prince of Wales

check, its sexiness is reined in by a little bit of deconstructionism, with lines of shredded fabric weaving down the front. It gives out satisfyingly complex messages — a come-on and a take-me-seriously plea stitched into one skirt.

The same cannot be said of Stella McCartney's creations for Chloé. Split up the front with frills along the edges, these would cause havoc in the office, as would Vivienne Westwood's fiery creations.

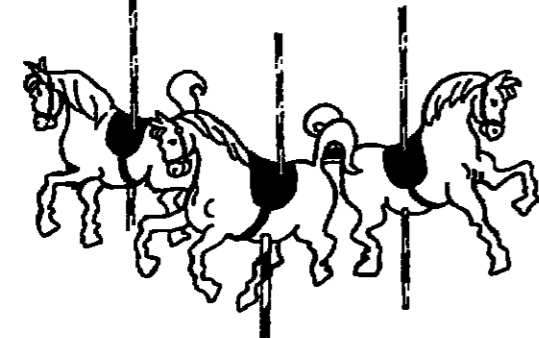
In Westwood's canon they count as demure, but for the rest of us they redefine raunchy. It really takes some nerve to step outside the door in a skirt that is not only slit as high as your thigh, but is also cut to define the derriere.

Discretion being the better part of sex appeal, however, the archetypal summer pencil skirt is a sort of raunchy librarian number — grey and sombre but with a slit snaking up the side and, ideally, a hint of sheer. The British designer Paul Frith did a good one, while Mark Jacobs teamed one with a pink zip sweater. MaxMara put their grey pencil with a sequined top, a day/night combination that is one of the hallmarks of the season.

The only rule — if there are any rules any more — is to avoid austerity. If the pencil skirt is severe, then team it with a cardigan or sportswear jacket.

The hot colours are grey, petrol or steel blue, and black (as at Prada). Miu Miu made pale pink work in a girly kind of way, while Iceberg did a shiny pea-soup green that had a vaguely urban combat feel. The classic waistband is a non-starter — look for low-waisted skirts with no waistband, or flat-fronted styles that echo Gucci.

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The urban myths of going private

Moira Petty sought a secondary school for her daughter and found an education in snobbery

In some circles, getting your daughter into the "right" London public day school at 11 seems to have replaced presenting her at Court as a mark of contemporary social snobbery.

Leaping from their Mercedes cars, double-parked outside north London's most fashionable prep schools, these mothers air-kiss each other, swap tennis tips, then plot their daughters' successful trajectory into the schools where they can have it all. One mother was heard observing that she favoured a school because Lord so-and-so's daughter went there. Another was concerned about what she would "tell her friends" if her daughter was rejected by her first-choice school.

The process is a cauldron of hype

pace, extra-curricular programmes and location was most suited to her individual requirements.

The process is a cauldron of hype, gossip, urban myths and jangled nerves, but is not without its comical moments. At one interview at a school to which Lily had applied — the only one to invite parents to sit in on part of the session — my ten-year-old daughter was giving her interpretation of the passage of the Social Services Bill, which she had been following on the news. Then she was asked by the school principal which party she would have voted for last May. "Communism," she said without irony. Perhaps, given her proletarian sympathies, I should have enrolled Lily in the nearest comprehensive but tales of university entrants struggling with basic grammar unnerved me.

My own schooling was at a direct-grant convent grammar school, which had managed to hang on to its status after the introduction of a comprehensive system. That atmosphere of academic zeal, with a questioning, liberal air and with more physics and fewer italic handwriting lessons, was what I was after for Lily.

It seemed that private is where you must go for an approximation of the old grammar schools. While the Mercedes Mums are all for it, private and education are not two words you utter closely together in their company.

From 9am to 4pm they support their local state primary, but for several evenings a week, and half the weekend, they employ an army of private tutors. The small classes (half the size of the state school in our case) and traditional methods of prep schools allow them to power ahead with the fundamentals of reading and writing. But if you opt for private, and if the school's catchment area includes the capital's "millionaire rows", you are also introducing your young child to a different lifestyle.

At one classmate's birthday party, a butler was directing

the valet parking as parents arrived. At another, I was pressing buttons on the electronic gates while my daughter swept through with ease, handing her coat to a maid.

Our three-storey, early Victorian house in Highgate — no swimming pool but lots of books — was unfavourably compared by Lily with the houses she visited. A more mature sense of perspective and taste is informing her views as she grows older. But I still feel uneasy when I hear of overindulged chums.

One friend, who at 11 went to a direct-grant fee-paying school, felt throughout her school days that she came from the wrong side of the tracks, although her background was perfectly respectable. Given Lily's metropolitan lifestyle and views, this is unlikely to be her experience, but was a factor when choosing schools.

The process began last summer with the first of a series of open days, in which the school makes its pitch to the parents and girls. In most cases this was a slick marketing operation, complete with flow charts, glossy brochures and high-minded statements of their mission to educate.

This was a chance to see the schools in action, to observe classroom teaching and the mien of the girls. I found myself checking if the pressure to be perfect led to eating disorders.

There were differences of approach; some schools seemed to take it for granted that they would turn out batches of Nicola Horlicks.

Two schools we visited were advertising the post of head girl. One was coached in sub-Angela Brazil terms. The other would have gone down well with a putative director of ICL. Applications were filled in last November. There was much gurning of photographs and replication of detail. Most schools were interested in the parents' occupations.

Most of the north London public day schools are divided into two consortiums. Girls number their choices (some schools won't look at you if they are not placed first) and in January sit one examination (papers in English and mathematics) per consortium at their school of first choice, the results being syndicated. The



"If I thought Lily starting school at four would be an emotional experience, it was nothing compared with what we have just been through"

autumn term, as we had been warned by Jean Batty, the head of Lily's prep school, North Bridge House, was a grueling round of test runs, revision and a heavy homework load. Every week, depending on how Lily had done in that week's trial papers, we had elation or hysterics. I realised that my ambitions for her meant that there was the possibility of disappointment at a vulnerable age. In January she came out of her first examination and burst into tears.

I silently revised my hopes downwards and began preaching the virtues of the slightly less academic schools on our list. The day after the second examination, she received letters inviting her to interviews at all the schools she had applied to in group one. The focus now switched to how she would represent herself in the flesh.

An analysis of how the American newspapers had covered the Clinton indiscretions and a defence of vegetarianism were among the subjects she introduced with relish. At post-mortem lunches we decoded every word or gesture of the interviewers.

All the schools sent out their offers or rejection letters on the last Friday in February. On the Saturday morning, a shoal of offers arrived. We had less than a week in which to accept one school. It was easy to narrow it down to two but from then on we agonised.

Having visited both schools again, I felt Lily would cope well in either. But one, South Hampstead High School, would mean a two-bus journey. We did a practice run at 7.30 one morning, hanging on to the straps most of the way. The other, Channing School, was a five-minute walk away in Highgate Village, with views over Waterlow Park and Hampstead Heath. That was the clincher for Lily, to whom we gave the final choice, and she joins Channing in the autumn.

If I thought her starting school at four would be an emotional experience, it was nothing compared with what we have just been through. Most of the big decisions from hereon will be made by Lily.

Already she is trying out the names of universities for size: Oxford, Trinity College, Dublin; Bristol. The list grows daily. And only seven and a half years to go.

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The mother and father of British television arts programmes was Monitor. A few days ago, those remaining met to celebrate the 40th anniversary of its first transmission...

We served up culture rare and Wheldon

had in those early days was newness. By and large, the British public had not seen great artists. To see them in the domestic context of television was a treat. I remember a film about Robert Graves...

The new in those first years. Marcel Duchamp and Ben Shahn, Lawrence Durrell and Alexander Trocchi, Barbirolli and Giullini...



of everything - This is fun, chaps. He gave Monitor its look. He teased and taught us all, all the directors - John Schlesinger, Ken Russell, Humphrey Burton, David Jones, Patrick Garland, Peter Newington, Jonathan Miller, David Attenborough, Nancy Thomas, Anne Turner, Maggie Dale, Stephen Hearst, myself and others.

time. Although there was some nostalgic, it was a small fraction of the conversation. They were, and are, a thoughtful, public-service, talented group with no side, confident in what they have done and are doing...

in his holidays: Russell and Schlesinger played ducks and drakes with feature films; then as now, Miller commanded several disciplines (incidentally, at the party he confessed quite cheerfully that during his one year's editorship he had 'driven Monitor into the ground'). Garland and I were developing other careers as writers...

What we had in common then and now was an enthusiasm for the arts. Not uncritical - some of the comments could be scathing - but basically we were driven rather to celebrate in public and leave the denigration, like the dirty washing, at home. Perhaps because of their own abilities, those who worked on Monitor were fascinated most of all by the abilities of others.

Masters of croak and roll

The rock'n'roll nostalgia circuit gets younger every day. But when Echo and the Bunnymen made their second coming last year, the young pretenders to their crown were exposed as the bunch of third-rate pedestrian plodders that they are destined to remain.

POP Echo and the Bunnymen Glasgow

which he is normally capable. In fact his larynx almost packed in completely during The Killing Moon, but the largely thirtysomething audience was only too willing to fill in the gaps.

McCulloch more than made up for this in the movement stakes, though. And while Will Sergeant lurked in the shadows, letting rip with some of the most tasteful guitar solos ever, McCulloch shimmered, shook and wiggled his tush.

By the time we got to the encores, it was clear that the voice had gone. The band gave up Ocean Rain three lines in, and even a traditionally rambling Crocodiles was reined in for the most cursory of finales.

NEIL COOPER



Ian McCulloch in action at Barrowlands on the first night of what could be a shortened Echo and the Bunnymen tour

Mesmerised by a fiddler on the hoof

THE prospect of an evening with John Eliot Gardiner and Gidon Kremer is bracing. The fierce English disciplinarian conductor and the passionate Russian daredevil violinist share a lofty idealism. But that is where the similarity ends, and it was the underlying tension between them that generated electricity in their Festival Hall performance of Sibelius's Violin Concerto.

CONCERTS

was beautifully shaped, and Gardiner's sustaining of the long orchestral lines was revealing.

The result was an audience shaken, perhaps, but not stirred. For all the passion, this performance lacked affection, and its great romantic climaxes were more impressive than involving.

Uninviting, too, was a fine performance of Elgar's In The South. Brass, sounding coarser than usual, overwhelmed the strings completely in a scrambled opening and it wasn't until the rousing "Roman" section of answering fifths across the orchestra that ringing strings achieved Elgar's desired knockout effect.

Brisk tempos were the order of the night. In Brahms's First Symphony, after a stately opening, the allegro was fast and furious. The incisive string playing Gardiner elicits is always invigorating, and the Philharmonia rose to the challenge. But towards the end the performance gathered a relaxed stop/start quality, and many inner parts lost their charm.

HELEN WALLACE

An uphill climb

BRUCKNER'S Eighth is the Everest of all symphonies, a towering masterpiece as long as two more conventional symphonies put together. Yet its rigorous structure demands a totally integrated performance, not something like the "two-in-one" performance Riccardo Chailly cobbled together in his underwhelming account with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican on Friday.

The stumbling block here. Every melody was allowed to sing out to its carefully phrased end. No orchestral colouring was ever overlooked, details which got in the way of the unfolding symphonic spans.

Hardly surprising, then, that the restless opening movement seemed so unconvincing. But nothing could explain the strangely slow tempo Chailly adopted in the Scherzo, holding it back and robbing it of its avalanche-like force. The troubling part he unleashed at the start of the finale - underlined just what had been missing. Yet he came closest to the composer's spirit with the Adagio, drawing dark and brooding playing. He built the movement up towards its mighty summit with searing intensity, and uncoiled the music again with a slow but steady hand.

JOHN ALLISON

Music good enough to stop the show

Opera Oberon Barbican Hall

WAS greater music ever lavished on a more inappropriate libretto than Weber's on James Robinson Planché's Oberon? It's not so much that the verse is bad by the standards of the day, more the case of a complete mismatch between composer and theatre.

But the mortally ill Weber needed the money, took the commission seriously and wrote music of blazing genius. Attempts to stage the piece have seldom worked; maybe concert performances such as last Thursday's are the answer, promoted by the Royal Philharmonic Society (for whom Weber conducted in 1826) and the City of London Sinfonia, with a tactful narration replacing dialogue and action; Timothy West did the honours, through the untimely break in the second act was less honourable.

The leading roles are ceaselessly demanding. For the heroine Reiza you need some divine conflation of Mozart's Fiordiligi and Wagner's Isolde, and in Christine Brewer they found one. Her tone was consistently warm and beautiful, her phrasing succinct, her technique equal to Weber's demands: "Ocean! Thou mighty monster", climaxed

supplied in somewhat unsparring quantity, and was also expected to sing with Mozartian grace: Alan Woodrow was more successful in the former respect in his honourable assault on this fearsome role.

Elsewhere, charm is the prime commodity needed, on hand in abundance from Pamela Helen Stephens (Fatima), Jean Rigby (Puck), Alan Opie

(Sherazmin) and John Daszak (Oberon) - not to forget Susan Gritton's mellifluous Mermaid. Richard Hickox's conducting was a bit "pushed" - the music needs more time and space to expand to its full breadth - but orchestra and LSO Chorus went at it with a will.

RÓDNEY MILNES

Advertisement for 'THE BULLET' play by Joe Penhall, featuring a list of cast members like Miles Anderson, Barbara Flynn, and Neil Stoke.

Advertisement for Hill House Hammond car insurance, featuring a large 'H' logo and contact information.

Advertisement for the opera 'The Tales of Hoffmann' by Offenbach, featuring a photo of a man and performance details.

Advertisement for MiniCall pagers, featuring a photo of a pager and promotional text like 'NO MONTHLY BILLS EVER'.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'The Times' and other illegible text.

Riding the circle line

Schnitzler was the first to do it, with the play we know best by the title of the film version, La Ronde.

The idea came from Susseborn Mark Ravenhill, whereupon Paines Plough commissioned Dublin-born Hilary Famin.

The overwhelming mood is bleak, so extensively so that after the scene between Aids-sufferer Pete and the air hostess in an indoor pool (clever design by Georgia

The trials of moving house

More and more plays are crossing the divide between subsidised and commercial theatre.

Benedict Nightingale reports

Eighteen years ago two great American impresarios won Tony awards. David Merrick for his production of 42nd Street.

"Congratulations," said Jacobs to Merrick. "Thanks," replied Merrick. "Well, aren't you going to congratulate me?" asked Merrick.

Moreover, these theatrical travel agents are more important to Shaftesbury Avenue than the entire British tourist industry is to Florida.

Many of these are thriving, but success in one theatre is far from a guarantee of success in another.

That's what distinguishes Kenwright from most producers. He talks of falling in love with plays like a youth in a medieval romance.

Most producers are more cautious. Fox has already seen Closer transfer from the Cottesloe to the Lyttelton.



National exports: the NT's staging of Closer, which moves to the Lyric tomorrow, and An Inspector Calls, still going strong at the Garrick

going on the assumption that "if I'm excited by something, a few thousand people might feel the same way".

Uncertainty is the only certainty. When Peter Wilson talked of bringing Priestley's Inspector Calls into the West End, everyone tried to stop him.

rehearsals. £270,000. The original theatre can expect the producer to pay it a modest sum, seldom more than £10,000.

6 Company lost everything - but I would do it again tomorrow

Berkoff's Ketch, and scarcely ever got more than £750 a week. Does this mean that theatres are being exploited by producers?

situation and is currently updating its guidelines on what is becoming an increasingly intense, increasingly important symbiosis between commercial producers and subsidised theatres.

Indeed, it is hard to find instances of theatres presenting plays with a view to transfer. True, the Almeida planned from the start to take Diana Rigg in Edward Albee's Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

theatre had not agreed that its interest in it would end with its first run. Nevertheless, there is a possible way forward for penurious playhouses.

The Royal Court already has one, which helps to explain why it ended up with profits said to be more than £100,000 from Death and the Maiden.

Yet nothing is certain with transfers. A bored star will refuse to extend the time he has already given to a play by more than a few weeks.

Donmar Warehouse

Sion) I crept out for the interval in a mood too gloomy for the sunset drink to remedy. A marketing manager, gives B a hand job. B, a roughly connects with C on the glass floor of his houseboat in a warehouse C pushes D's face into her groin.

This week in THE TIMES



THEATRE Brian Friel's literary play Give Me Your Answer, Dot arrives in Hampstead



MUSIC American diva Kathleen Battle gives a rare recital in the Barbican



MUSICAL Joan Littlewood's classic Oh! What A Lovely War tours to Milton Keynes



FILM Plumbing the depths for aliens: Dustin Hoffman takes a dive in Sphere

PLUS: The Spice Girls open the British leg of their tour in Glasgow, Sat

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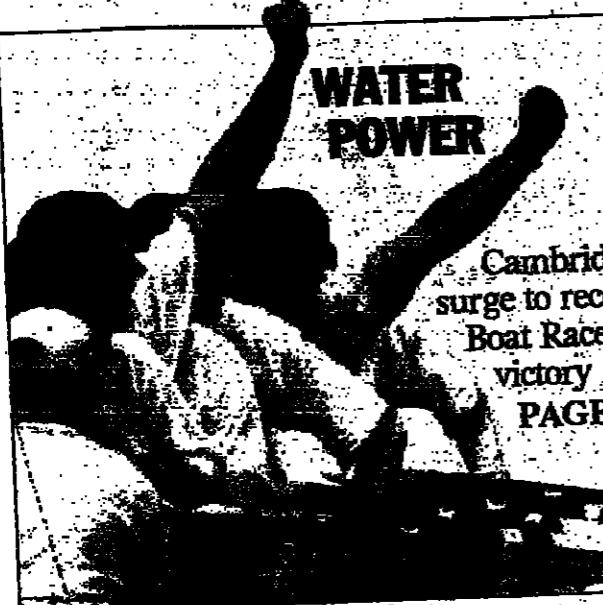
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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

WATER POWER



Cambridge surge to record Boat Race victory PAGE 36

PUNCH POWER



Lewis fights back to beat Briggs PAGE 32

STRIKE POWER



Bowling along in the fast lane for tempin success PAGE 37

HORSE POWER

McLarens speed to another easy win in Brazil PAGE 27



TIMES SPORT 16 PAGES

MONDAY MARCH 30 1998

EXTRA-TIME GOALS BRING CUP SUCCESS TO VIALLI AND CHELSEA



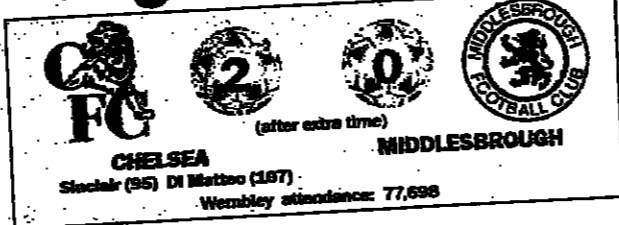
Cup that cheers: Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, had the honour of going up to collect the Coca-Cola Cup and holds it aloft after his side's victory against Middlesbrough yesterday. Photograph: Max Nash

Middlesbrough fail to stop blue flag flying high again

By OLIVER HOYT FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WHEN the players ran in a long line... Chelsea beat Middlesbrough in the FA Cup final last May...

their third consecutive defeat in a final... Instead of the game turning into a fairytale return to English football...



Vialli who stole the headlines. After the match was won. Dennis Wise, the Chelsea captain and man of the match...

darned Middlesbrough's hopes in the FA Cup final with his long-range, first-minute goal...

brough's luck had turned at last. Schwarzer pulled off one outstanding save from a half-volley by Hughes midway through the first half...

Gascoigne hands medal to Hignett

By MATT DICKINSON

THE murderous tackles on each other suggested otherwise, but for Paul Gascoigne and Dennis Wise it was an afternoon for selflessness and generosity...

right. Besides, he had only played a handful of games since the new year. "I thought he showed some lovely touches, but he did not play as far forward as I wanted..."

Wembley steps to collect the trophy. "Luca is such a nice guy, that is why we work so hard for him..."

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CRICKET: WEST INDIES BOWLERS ON RECEIVING END IN FIRST ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL

Atherton put in shade by Knight

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

NICK KNIGHT made the third century of his brief one-day international career here yesterday, launching England towards an imposing total of 293 for five in the first of this five-game series...



Knight pulls Rose, the West Indies fast bowler, for six during his century yesterday. Photograph: Rebecca Naden

recovered but Ben Hollister kept his place and Angus Fraser was the man to drop out. For Hollister, though, there was to be no reprise of his Lord's debut last summer...

There was no shortage of colour on the field, where both teams sported their new or new-day stripes, complete with names and numbers on the back. The numbering system is an obvious boon to transit spectators...

seven years. At this point England could have been fancied to exceed 300 but, as so often with dominant opening stands, momentum is never quite maintained after the initial wicket. Stewart was out with 20 overs remaining...

Hick playing lazily inside a leg-break from Lewis and Knight the victim of some sloppy running from Thorpe, who called a dubious second run and then slipped over. Thorpe was soon gone, pushing down the wrong line in the distracted way of one who has probably played his best cricket this winter...

BRIDGETOWN SCOREBOARD. ENGLAND: N V Knight run out (Lambert) 122, A J Stewart b Walsh 74, G A Hick b Lewis 59, G P Thorpe b Simmons 44, M A Atherton b Simmons 20, M V Fleming not out 22. WEST INDIES: C B Lambert, P A Wallace, B C Lara, C I Hooper, S Chandrasekhar, P V Simmons, J R Murray, R N Lewis, F A Rose, C E L Ambrose and C A Walsh.

Taylor may leave captaincy

MARK TAYLOR, the Australia captain, said yesterday that he would consider resigning over his disagreement with selectors about splitting the leadership of the team...

Donald speeds to milestone

CENTURION (third day of five): Sri Lanka, with three second-innings wickets in hand, lead South Africa by 196 runs. ALLAN DONALD shook off the effects of a long, hard summer yesterday and produced a stunning spell of fast bowling to capture his 200th Test wicket...

SPORT IN BRIEF

Newton puts Brite on road to clean sweep

Team Brite justified the forecast that they would keep their unbeaten record this season with a convincing one-two-three yesterday at the end of the two-day, three-stage Europa event...

Wasim leads the chase

Mohammad Wasim and Yousaf Youhana shared a fourth-wicket stand of 144 to help Pakistan to a four-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the second and final one-day international in Harare yesterday...

Revenge for Oxford

Oxford avenged their Boat Race defeat with success over Cambridge in the Varsity football match at Craven Cottage. Joe Parker put Oxford ahead from close range on the stroke of half-time...

Millfield victorious

The pace and strength in the tackle of Millfield School saw them emerge as deserved winners of the Scottish School Super Tens competition yesterday...

Arsenal target double

Arsenal will meet Croydon in the final of the FA Women's Cup after both sides eased through their semi-finals by a single goal yesterday...

SNOW REPORTS. AUSTRIA: Obertal 75 160 good varied slushy sun 6 23/3. FRANCE: Plagne 40 240 soft heavy slush sun 7 24/3. ITALY: Cortina 50 130 fair heavy slushy fine 6/23/3. SWITZERLAND: St Moritz 15 90 good varied slushy fine 6/23/3.

Advertisement for BOSS HUGO BOSS watches. Features a large image of a watch with a black dial and leather strap. Text includes 'FOR YOUR NEAREST BOSS Hugo Boss Watch STOCKIST' and contact information.

Advertisement for James Hickman, a swimmer. Title: 'Hickman helps himself to sackful of records'. Text describes his achievements in the 100m butterfly and 200m medley, and his role as a coach.

Advertisement for Beeston football club. Title: 'Beeston safe for another year'. Text mentions their success in the EHA Cup final and their position in the National League.

Advertisement for snooker player Jimmy White. Title: 'White waits for Hendry in Sheffield'. Text discusses his performance in the Embassy world championship and his rivalry with Stephen Hendry.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially obscured. It features the word 'Washing' at the top and 'Teenagers' at the bottom, with various images and text related to laundry and youth products.

FA Carling Premiership: Newcastle caught by relegation tide as Tottenham come up for air

Dalglish deprived of break on the coast



SOUTHAMPTON 2
NEWCASTLE UNITED 1
By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

ONLY once did Kenny Dalglish falter in his equanimity and his soft humour, only once did a tinge of bitterness surface. It came when he got up to leave his post-match press conference and he was asked whether his Newcastle United team would be staying in the South to prepare for the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park tomorrow.

Dalglish did not stop on his passage towards the doorway, but he still managed to fix the questioner with one of his most withering stares. "Whatever we're doing," he muttered, "I certainly won't be telling you lot. You'll bug the rooms and spike the drinks." With that, he was gone.



Dalglish shepherds Shearer away from a confrontation with the officials after a late penalty had condemned their team to defeat against Southampton

At the end of their first match since the resignations of Douglas Hall and Freddie Shepherd, Dalglish could be forgiven his aside. He has suffered grievously in the past few weeks because of the misbehaviour of others, not just through the "Toongate" affair but because of the unsavoury headlines that followed the team's recent "golfing" break in Dublin.

The goal that beat them was a controversial penalty awarded in faintly bizarre circumstances. After a scrappy first half that Newcastle had dominated, they took the lead two minutes after the interval. An attempted backpass from Dodd crept off the bottom of his foot. Lee pounced on it, took it round Jones and swept it in.

Eight minutes later, Newcastle's luck began to turn. When Southampton failed to clear a corner, the ball was volleyed back in by Gillespie and Shearer deflected it towards the corner. Wrong-footed, Jones somehow managed to change direction and turn the ball past his left-hand post. Shearer held his head in his hands.

Lee went off with a hamstring injury and, gradually, Southampton began to win the battle in midfield through Palmer and Richardson. Twenty minutes from the end, they equalised when a corner bounced off Pistone's foot and Pearce scooped the ball into his own net as he was trying to hack it clear.

Three minutes from the end, Newcastle's misery was complete. They failed to clear another corner. Le Tissier flicked the ball goalwards and Hughes handed on the line. Barber had not seen it and had to consult a linesman. He had seen the handball but had not identified the culprit. To Shearer's anger, a penalty was awarded. No one was sent off. Le Tissier, who scored a last-minute equaliser against Newcastle last season, stepped up and hammered his kick beyond Given. It was the 46th time he has converted a penalty in 47 attempts.

Home truths continue to haunt predictable Palace

SO FAREWELL then, Crystal Palace. A new owner and a new manager await and so, surely, does a new status in the Nationwide League first division. Maybe they should try to find a new ground as well this summer, because Selhurst Park remains a graveyard for their ambitions.

Five of Palace's remaining seven games are at home and, after four draws and ten league defeats there this season, it is optimistic to think that they can win even one of them. Antonio Lombardo, their player-coach, provided the Italian equivalent of "we won't give up until it's a mathematical certainty" on Saturday, but they are doomed.

It is a plight that Palace supporters might find easier to bear if the club's future was not so uncertain. Such is the weekly change of events that it would be no great shock to most of them if they returned from their summer holidays to find Selhurst Park transformed into an Asda superstore, and there will be increasing questions as to whether Mark Goldberg, the director who is soon to be the club's owner, can deliver all that is expected.

He has not helped himself with bold talk of attracting the likes of Paul Gascoigne and Terry Venables and his ambitious plans will not have been aided by a drop in status. Venables may need convincing to take up a coaching job in the first division, although in the case of the former England coach, the lure of money normally

preves too much to resist. The defeat on Saturday epitomised some of what is good and everything that is bad about Palace. For the first half-hour, they were lively, inventive and largely in control. Sasa Curcic, on his debut after a £1 million transfer from Aston Villa, teased and tormented the Spurs defence with his incisive runs.

Up front, Matt Jansen showed again the directness that made him a target for Manchester United. His talents merit the FA Carling Premiership stage and his decision to shun Old Trafford looks more rash by the week. However, all their good work was undone by a defensive collapse the minute that Tottenham took the lead. It lifted Spurs within two victories of safety and they should secure the first at home to Everton on Saturday. They began fitfully, but were playing with a swagger by the end and Saib produced enough perceptive passes on his full debut to suggest that he is in the team to stay.

Advertisement for Renault F1 Racing Simulation. Text: "SOMETIMES YOU'LL WISH IT WAS LESS REAL". Features an image of a Renault F1 car and the text "RENTAL F1 RACING SIMULATION". Logos for Ubi Soft and PC CD-ROM are present.

Johnson feels force of Goodison gloom

HE STOOD, all but bursting out of his sweatshirt in fury, his finger jabbing, voice hoarse, the veins on his neck bulging as he bellowed at the directors' box below. "You're a disgrace Johnson, a disgrace," he yelled. "You've destroyed this club. You might not care, but we do."

Beneath him, Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, and the other VIPs fled out of view, some glancing up, others looking steadfastly away. Behind him, clumps of spectators stood and watched in mute agreement, staying to stare at the pitch as Mr Angry made his less than merry way home. They looked stunned.

In the pubs near the ground, the conversation was conducted almost in chorus. Everton were terrible, they were an embarrassment, they were humiliated. When they needed to buy players, top players, the money-men had done nothing. Signing Peter Beagrie on loan from Bradford City? "He's a nice fella, but Peter Beagrie?" There was no blame attached to the winger, you understand, but the next sentence contained the word "board" and a string of expletives that echoed awesomely far down Goodison Street.

Reebok cast write season end's script

THE glimmering prizes will soon be handed out and the tension is rising, notch by notch. As a preview of the pressures to be endured over the closing six weeks of the season, this match, when performers and adjudicators alike snapped under the strain, was as good as it gets. And the nominations are...

Best actor: Emilie Heskey (Leicester City), a striker rated in the £5 million class, for his convincing portrayal of a cumbersome parks player in need of direction. ("This, open goal. This, ball. You, score.")

Most unlikely match-winner: Alan Thompson (Bolton Wanderers), who has developed a shot as ferocious as his work-rate is prodigious and whose two goals — a 25-yard belter in the 52nd minute and a simple finish just before the final whistle — capped an outstanding performance.

Several racing games are lining up on the grid. But only one has received rave reviews for its thrilling realism, brilliant split screen action and breathtaking accuracy. Developed with Renault F1 engineers, only F1 Racing Simulation puts you totally in the driving seat.

There can be no doubts now that Everton, top-flight fixtures since 1954, once one of the "big five", are heading for relegation. They won the championship 11 years ago, the FA Cup just three years ago, but the Nationwide League beckons like a siren and it will take a huge effort to escape it, an effort that looked beyond them on Saturday.

Unfortunately, none of the above were going to dislodge Uriah Rennie from centre stage. The Sheffield referee has been attracting rave reviews all season for his firm handling of difficult games and his admirable athleticism, and there was not a hint of dissent even

Blue skies of Europe beckoning

COVENTRY CITY 1
DERBY COUNTY 0
By Russell Kempson

IF CONFIRMATION were needed of Coventry City's growing stature, it came when Gordon Strachan, the manager, surveyed the players available for training last Tuesday: all four of them. "We thought about having a two-a-side game, but then Trond Egil Solvetved got a late call-up for Norway," he said.

Coventry, so often the last-day escapees from relegation, are pushing for a Uefa Cup place next season. They lie only five points away from sixth position, the qualification cut-off. Success has its pitfalls. Eleven of Strachan's players were involved in international matches during the past fortnight, not the ideal preparation for a Midlands shindig against Derby County, their fellow Uefa Cup-chasers, at Highfield Road on Saturday.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, including "Carling Premier", "Bergkam", "archy ru", "orce gam".

FA Carling Premiership: Arsenal striker's suspension may be decisive in championship race

Bergkamp makes parting shot



Bergkamp, the Arsenal goalscorer, beats Walker to unleash another shot at the Wednesday goal. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

ARSENAL 1 SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 0 By Brian Glanville

THE trap of the perverse is never far from football. Having dictated the first 35 minutes, Arsenal came as close as could be to conceding a goal — then promptly went to the other end and scored the game's only goal themselves.

Breakaways have been the Arsenal tradition for decades, but it was in a rare and dangerous counter-attack that Sheffield Wednesday, generally so flaccid, might have taken the lead. Suddenly, Arsenal's right-flank defence collapsed, enabling Benito Carbone to advance unchallenged from the left and square the ball to Earl Barrett. Barrett hit it hard and true, but Nigel Winterburn launched himself to save the day, a resilient piece of defending.

Had Barrett scored, which seemed so probable, it would have been doubly ironic since, until then, he had been led a devilish dance by Marc Overmars. Ron Atkinson, the Wednesday manager, said of Barrett: "He did everything right. He whacked the ball right and the fellow came out and made a terrific block. Aggressive defending."

goalkeeper, turned the ball over, as he did near the end, when Bergkamp tried to lob him, almost from the byline. "First half, they overplayed us completely and gave us a right good tanking," Atkinson said. "We were very lucky to be 1-0 down. In the second half, we made a better fist of it and carried the game to them a bit more. At one stage, I thought they had 15 on the park."

after six weeks sidelined by injury, was untroubled. By contrast, Pressman was bravely active. Twice in the second half, he frustrated the ebullient Overmars — once when he dived to push away a fierce diagonal drive

"It was a spring game," Wenger, who thought the unaccustomed heat had sapped his team in the second half, said. "but we had a good first half. Our game was fluent and we created chances. In the second half, some players got heavy legs. And the goal was a great goal. Dennis made a great run and Overmars gave him a great pass. It was a Dutch goal."

Wenger is delighted with Overmars, whom he has converted, he said, from the Dutch type of winger, making space for the midfield players, to one who is perpetually in the game. "It took him some time to adjust to that because physically it is much more demanding," Wenger said. Overmars is well adjusted now.

Anarchy rules as dismissals force game over the edge

THE late attempt at dignity ended in pathetic fashion. Gary Willard, the referee, marched confidently, defiantly, towards the dressing-rooms. Concealed within a phalanx of stewards and police — led, aptly enough, by a man in a white coat — the walk became hesitant as the first objects were thrown. The phlegm and coins rained down as they approached the West Stand. Eyes covered, they formed a protective scrum and, finally, ran for their lives down the tunnel.



BARNSELY 2 LIVERPOOL 3 By Mark Hodgkinson

with a wonderful drive, though it seems absurd to mention the actual football. Barnard was sent off for tripping Owen and, a few minutes later, Morgan collided with the same player and was also dismissed. A fan raced on and careered towards Willard. McManaman swiftly sidestepped the intruder, but Fjortoft courageously wrestled him to the ground.

porters tried to break free of the stewards. Amid the noise and confusion, Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, leant on the dugout, resplendent in a white shirt, rather like an office worker caught up in a demo on his lunch break. Willard suddenly left the field, presumably to defuse matters, but it was out of control.



Willard gets an escort from the field after suspending play at Oakwell

Gary Willard plays the game, literally, by the book. Even before events at Oakwell on Saturday, he had issued more yellow cards than any other FA Carling Premiership referee, with 73 in 16 matches. His decisions were unfathomable, owing everything to pedantry and nothing to common sense. Babb lost his balance and collided with Marcolle. He was booked. Sheridan was a fraction late as he tackled Ince. He was booked. Matteo cynically drove his elbow into the back of Fjortoft. He was pardoned.

Brian Glanville Leeds United, who beat Derby County 3-0 at Pride Park a fortnight ago, must face this game without their lively young Australia striker, Harry Kewell, much to their wrath. He had been withdrawn from the national squad for an Olympic qualifying game because of injury, only for the Australia authorities to invoke the five-day rule nonetheless.



WEST HAM UNITED v LEEDS UNITED Today, 8.0

Strange to suggest that West Ham need more creativity in midfield when they have such potentially inventive players there as Eyal Berkovic and John Moncur, but the fact is that when

they recently failed to beat an Arsenal team down to ten men in that FA Cup sixth-round replay, lack of midfield flair was their undoing. Players such as John Harrison and Trevor Sinclair deserve a decent service. Leeds might be able to make progress down the flanks if West Ham continue to use two wingers, in the shape of Andy Impey and the swift Stan Lazaridis, as their wing backs.

WEST HAM UNITED (possible, 3-5-2): S. Lane — I. Payne, G. Fendley, D. Unsworth — A. Impey, J. Moncur, E. Berkovic, S. Fots, S. Lazaridis — J. Harrison, T. Sinclair LEEDS UNITED (possible, 4-4-2): N. Meaby — G. Kelly, R. Higgins, M. Hutton, I. Harte — G. Helle, D. Hopkin, A. Hirst, L. Sawyer — J. Harrison, R. Wallace Referee: A. White. TELEVISION: Tonight: Live on Sky Sports 1 from 7pm. PREDICTION: A draw.

Offside verdicts come to aid of flagging United



MANCHESTER UNITED 2 WIMBLEDON 0 By David Maddock

IF MANCHESTER United lift the championship this season, they will be worthy winners — literally. This particular, admittedly under-strength, Old Trafford model is singularly lacking in style and will rely instead on good, old-fashioned, worthy virtues to see them past the challenge of Arsenal.

There is none of the swooping grace of the Kanchelskis and Sharpe era, little of the finesse of Cantona's reign. Without Giggs, they are honest toilers, laced with above-average technique. It is probably good enough to see them through this season.

For 83 minutes on Saturday, Wimbledon's thin blue line held firm, revelling, almost, in the opposition's one-dimensional approach, via Beckham on the right, and Cole's obvious discomfort when near the danger area.



Johnsen: controversial goal

83 minutes. Cole was clearly blocking Sullivan's line of vision when the goalkeeper was beaten by the Norwegian's volley from a corner by Beckham. The referee's clear view and lack of action led to strong accusations from Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager.

There were three players in offside positions all interfering with play and I just don't know why the referee didn't give it," he said. "He was in front of 50,000 spectators at Old Trafford and he didn't have the courage to overturn it."

Had Kinnear seen a replay of the second United goal, his anger would have increased. Gallagher and his linesman were again in good positions, but failed to spot Scholes sneak from a clear offside position to flick Beckham's clever headed return from Thornley's cross.

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

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Choose six drivers and six constructors, three from each of the four groups, left. Readers in the UK can enter by calling the 24-hour hotline on 0891 40 50 01 (Irish Republic +44 990 100 311). Calls last about seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone. Follow the instructions and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name (max 16 characters), together with your details. You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry.

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02 Michael Schumacher	06 Olivier Panis	10 Jean Alesi
03 David Coulthard	07 Heinz-Harald Frentzen	11 Rubens Barrichello
04 Giancarlo Fisichella	08 Eddie Irvine	
GROUP B DRIVERS		
12 Alexander Wurz	15 Mika Salo	20 Ricardo Rosset
13 Ralf Schumacher	17 Pedro Diniz	21 Shiji Nakano
14 Jarno Trulli	18 Jan Magnussen	22 Esteban Tuero
16 Johnny Herbert	19 Toranosuke Takagi	
GROUP C CONSTRUCTORS		
22 Williams	28 McLaren	29 Sauber
24 Ferrari	27 Jordan	30 Arrows
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CHANGING TIMES

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, Goal. Lists Premier League teams and their records.

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, Goal. Lists Premier League teams and their records.

OVERSEAS

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, Goal. Lists international football results.

Coca-Cola Cup advertisement featuring a soccer player and the cup logo.

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, Goal. Lists international football results.

Carling F.A. Premiership advertisement with a lion logo and 'Youds un lesson at of the' text.

Nationwide Football League advertisement.



Phil Masinga, the former Leeds United striker, accepts the plaudits after scoring the equaliser for Bari in their match against Brescia yesterday

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, Goal. Lists Nationwide Football League results.

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NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

Table with 3 columns: Home, Away, Goal. Lists non-league football results.

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GOALSCORERS

Table listing goal scorers for various leagues and matches.

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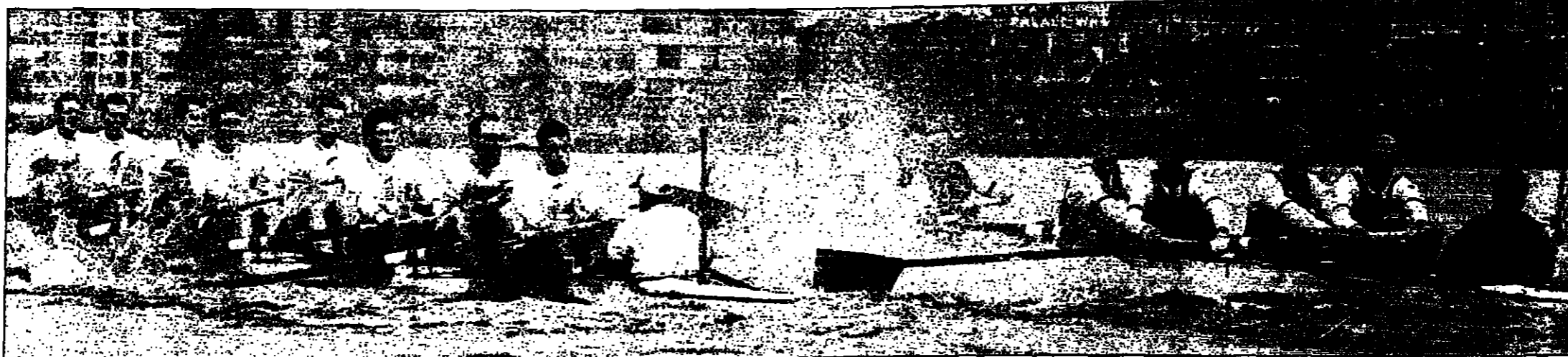
Pulling power sweeps Light Blues to record

By Rob Hughes

LOUDER and louder came the warnings, shriller and shriller the umpire's voice. "Cambridge... Oxford!... BOTH crews, pull apart! Nobody was listening. No one gave way. They were fighting for the narrow stretch of race-winning tide and the umpire's attempts to separate them were about as effective as trying to prise open a crocodile's jaws with a toothpick.

Inevitably the blades clashed, first with a resounding smack, then a juddering, splashing entanglement that momentarily stopped both boats, threatening to end the Boat Race within the first mile, at Fulham football ground. Because both were encroaching, Mike Sweeney, the umpire, could not disqualify either, yet out of calamity came the fastest race in the 169-year event.

Before the clash, Cambridge had struggled for smoothness of technique. Now, as Alastair Potts, their cox, shouted "Lets go, go, go", there came an eruption of power, a turbo boost too quick and too strong for any opponent. Oxford tried, manfully, propelling themselves to the second fastest time in history... but still three lengths behind.



The clash of oars whips up a torrent of white water as Cambridge, on the left, and Oxford refuse to give way in a battle of wills that would determine the outcome of the Boat Race. Photograph: Marc Aspland

The shock of clashing blades had stimulated Cambridge, brought on stream their exceptional might — and in ideal conditions of a still wind, flat water and a rushing tide, they proved the tallest, heaviest and strongest Boat Race crew yet assembled. "The clash-ette," as Potts whimsically called it, "kick-started us. We knew after that it was our bend, our race."

Right in front of the cox, in the stern of the boat and the sternest of athletes, were Marc Weber, the stroke, Stefan Forster, at seven, and Alex Story,

at six. Here was the seat of Cambridge power. Forster is 6ft 6in, lost-plus; he wears dark glasses and ostensibly came to Cambridge to study management. If he is not the strongest man ever to crouch into a lightweight Varsity boat, maybe Story, 6ft 7in and a reader of modern and medieval languages, could be.

Indeed, Story combines the articulacy of mind with the obsessive defiance of spirit that a master coach such as Robin Williams would instil in his crew. That Story was in the race at all is a wonder to

anyone who has ever felt back pain, for in the winter he split a disc and tore two more in the lumber region and had not been certain of claiming his place until two weeks ago.

Story was distinctly unamused to have had his race jeopardised by cavalier coxing. "A clash like that is dangerous because you can snap a blade," he asserted. "For ten to 15 strokes after the clash, we lost rhythm. The umpire had made it very clear he would be ruthless and the race could have turned into a massive anti-climax."

As Story spoke, a distraught Oxford figure lay on the pebbles nearby — the inconspicuous American student epidemiologist, Paul Berger. Oblivious to the defeated, Story summed up: "As an oarsman, you look for the perfect race — the public probably want an exciting race and the clashing of oars is good for that!"

We almost had both. Cambridge converted almost a stone a man advantage into triumph. They forged three rowers — Paul Cunningham, Jonathan Bull and Toby Wal-

lace — who had not held an oar until they went to university, and blended them with hugely sculptured, knowledgeable foreigners. "Ultimately, the difference was their five internationals," Sean Bowden, the intense and fair-minded Oxford coach, concluded. "That experience, knowing how to respond, made the difference."

Bowden is just beginning his Oxford term. Williams will be casting his eye around the Cambridge intake for more likely lads, perhaps rugby players, to extend his record of

four races, four wins. Yet a crew is only the sum of its parts. Isis, the Oxford reserve eight, had surprisingly beaten Goldie and it transpired that the seating of Theodore Brun, rowing at seven for Cambridge, had become detached.

One man, one mishap makes or mars the team effort. One race can linger a lifetime. Henrik Nilsson, the Swede who gave up the prospect of professional football to row for glory, stood in his wellies at Mortlake bank, his family and girlfriend around him. He knew, when he glanced over

his shoulder approaching Barnes Bridge, that Cambridge were uncatchable. "We were afraid of their strength, which was why psychologically we wanted to be ahead at the start," he said. "We trained for 6½ months in the best programme I ever had. This was our exam, but we fell apart after the clash. They found their rhythm, we lost it."

"Beating the old record shows we are a good crew, which I knew. But it doesn't matter. What matters is you win or you lose."

Oxford fail to cut Cambridge down to size

By Mike Rosewell, Rowing Correspondent

COME the day, with a big tide and smooth water, Cambridge's rowing matched their size, rewriting the Boat Race record books in the 144th staging of the event. With the heaviest crew, the tallest crew, the heaviest rowers at bow, three and seven, Cambridge set records to Hammersmith Bridge, Chiswick Steps, Barnes Bridge and the finish, the latter by 25sec, to leave Oxford — no slouches themselves — three lengths behind.

Oxford won the toss and chose the Middlesex station, surprising many, for only eight crews have done this since the Second World War and only three have won. Oxford's idea was to live with Cambridge's power and get into their known smooth rhythm, which, they thought, would make them faster in the second half. Two things upset the plan.

A series of warnings to both crews and clashes around the Fulham bend negated Oxford's good first 60 strokes. Andrew Lindsay, the Oxford president, at six, missed a stroke in the worst of these. Mike Sweeney, the umpire, considered that both crews were to blame. "They were both fighting for the same water," he said. "That is not a question of disqualification. If it had come to a grinding halt, I would have separated them and re-started them."

Oxford came off the worse as Alastair Potts, the Cambridge cox, called for a "big ten" and his crew passed the Mile with a canvas lead. Sean Bowden, the Oxford coach, said: "The clash definitely did not help. We had a quarter-length and were rowing well." He conceded, though, that "we knew with the Surrey bend coming, we needed more than that".

The second downfall of Oxford was not just the power of Cambridge, but their ability to produce bursts. "We practised our pushes and made them really effective," Marc Weber, the Cambridge stroke, from Germany, said. By Hammersmith Bridge, they led by a length, had control of the race and stretched this to three lengths by the finish to give Robin Williams, their coach, his fourth win.

Nevertheless, Oxford, who also broke the old record, kept them under pressure. The two base speeds were similar, although, as Lindsay said: "Cambridge had that extra



gear to increase their base for short times. It demolished us." Bowden has clearly done great things with Oxford in his first year, not least in more fully assimilating his reserve, Isis, into the scene. It paid off with the first Isis win over Goldie since 1969 in a record-equaling time. Coached by Chris Nilsson, a New Zealander, Isis, on Middlesex, trailed for the first 12 minutes, a period marked by frenzied umpire activity and three dashes, the third apparently causing damage to the Goldie seven-man's slide.

RESERVE RACE DETAILS: Isis won by 2½ lengths. Mile: Grade 3 men 29sec, 1st 28sec. Hammersmith Bridge: Grade 18.34, 1st 6.25. Chiswick Steps: Grade 10.22, 1st 10.22. Barnes Bridge: 1st 14.07. Goldie 14.10. Finish: 1st 12.25. Records: 1996 Goldie record, Goldie 17.07.

CAMBRIDGE'S RECORD ROW		
CHISWICK STEPS RECORD Cambridge 1993 10min 32sec NEW RECORD Cambridge 1998 9min 56sec	HAMMERSMITH BRIDGE RECORD Cambridge 1993 6min 21sec NEW RECORD Cambridge 1998 6min 20sec	ONE MILE RECORD Oxford 1978 Cambridge 1993 3min 31sec Cambridge 1998 3min 33sec
CHISWICK Oxford 1984 15min 42sec NEW RECORD Cambridge 1998 15min 15sec	MIDDLESEX Oxford 1984 23min 17sec NEW RECORD Cambridge 1998 23min 32sec	FINISH Oxford 1984 25min 17sec NEW RECORD Cambridge 1998 25min 15sec

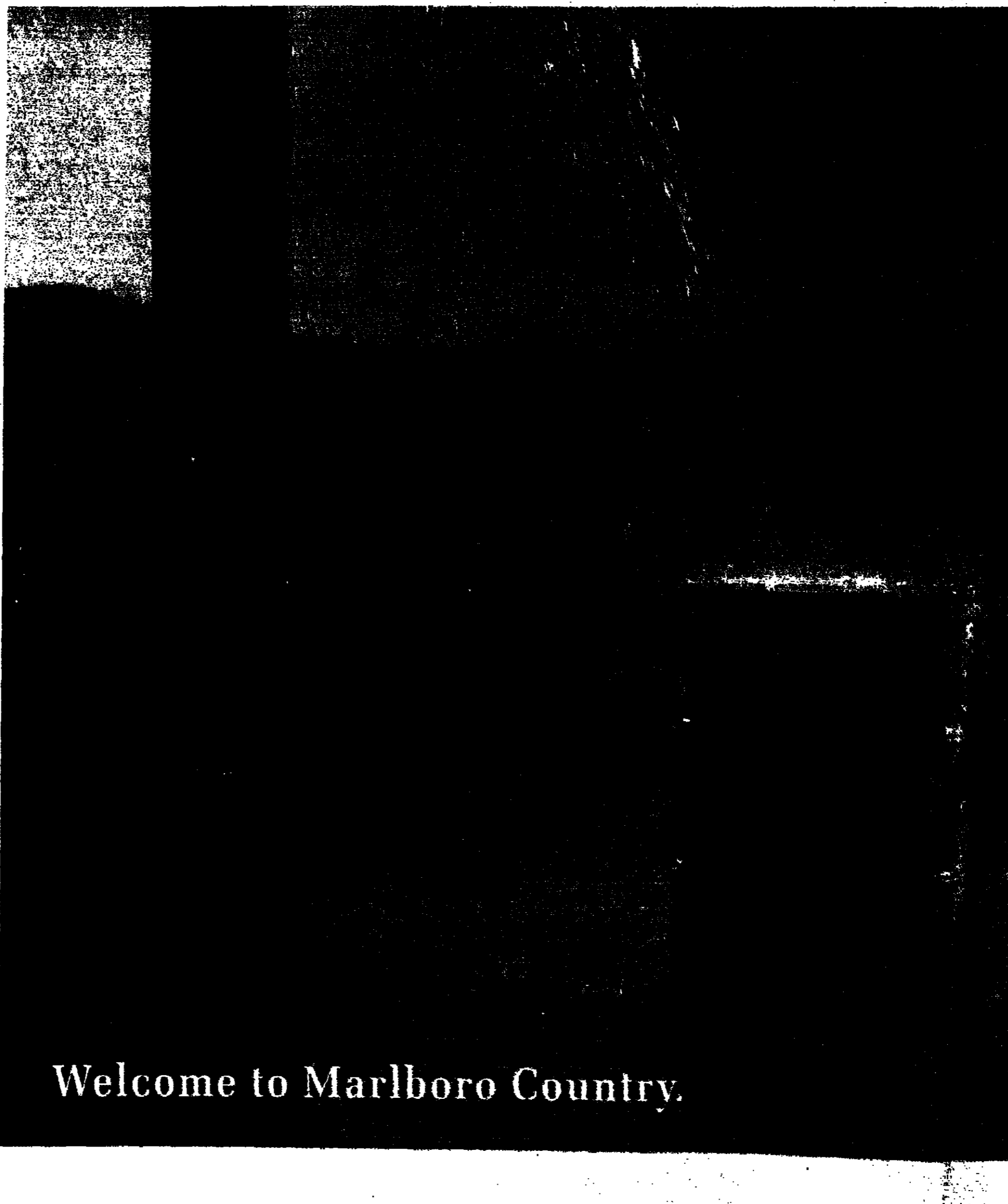
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Burden strikes rich vein of form in build-up to Games

David Powell goes down the lanes and finds the potential for a harvest of gold

Eight strikes in a row is worth a minute of anybody's curiosity. Those who had never seen anything like it watched open-mouthed. Others entrenched in the sport, those beyond a cure for tennis, were also drawn in by the rarity of the moment. Gemma Burden was bowling them over pins and spectators.

Sadly, a ninth successive strike eluded her. She had disengaged her mind from the surrounding anticipation, concentrating only on the lane before her, but now there could be no ignoring the outside world. The collective groan of disappointment could be heard above everything as the obdurate No 10 pin — the one on the right, nearest the gutter — refused to fall.

Thus Burden had to settle for a 257, three strikes short of her record-game score of 290 in competition. And the maximum 300? "I have done it twice in practice," she said, longing for the day when she can manage it in tournament play.

Where better to start than in Kuala Lumpur in September, when tenpin bowling breaks out of its shell and begins to walk with other sports. Whereas the main international events — world championships and World Cup — are held in isolation, the Commonwealth

Games will lay inpin bowling before a wider audience as a full medal sport for the first time.

Though only 19, Burden has achieved so much that it comes as no surprise to hear Wayne Greenall, of Great Britain, the 1996 European champion, say that he expects her to win gold in the Malaysian capital. Judging by the British Tenpin Bowling Association (BTBA) national championships at Sunderland these past two weekends, England have chosen their women well.

Burden came out on top, winning the all-events title — the main one of four — with Pauline Buck second. Buck is the other member of the women's team, a contrasting 41 years old. At 17, Burden became the youngest winner of the World Cup title. She is also a two-time United Kingdom champion.

Burden won the World Cup in São Paulo in 1995. "I have improved since then, but I still have loads to do to my game," she said. "Unless I was averaging 300 all the time, there is always room for improvement." Thus she practises

every day, working only 15 hours a week as a car sales assistant, putting bowling first while her parents foot most of the £40-a-week tenpin bill. Travel, accommodation and entry fees — £46.50 for Sunderland — add up, though she bowls for free at her local centre in Weston-super-Mare.

There is occasional prize-money, but, with rare exceptions, not much. "Nothing you could live off," Burden said. Now, though, is the age of progress. A recent men's tournament in Dagenham offered a \$30,000 winner-takes-all cheque. Still, small bucks for what Go Tenpin described as "the bowling event of the century".

Burden has been bowling since she was four, following the keen arm of her father, Tony, who remains her coach. From her nine games in Sunderland, she averaged 214, picking up women's doubles and team titles on her way to the all-events.

According to Tony Burden, the standard of bowling in Britain has improved dramatically over the past five years. He sees two main

qualities in his daughter: an iron will and outstanding technique. On Monday nights, they bowl in the same league team, but he is more than a father, coach and team-mate. Somebody has to carry those 15lb balls.

"You need quite a few balls for different lane conditions," Burden said, adding that she carts six to competitions, even those overseas — "That is what I take my dad for." The airlines, apparently, are sympathetic on baggage excess. "We are always way over the allowance but I have never had to pay anything," she said.

The Commonwealth Games will be the most important tournament this year for Burden. "The Malaysians and Cara Honeychurch, from Australia, are probably our biggest threat," she said. "They class it as a big sport in Malaysia."

It is getting bigger over here. The BTBA has 25,000 registered players and, in the past ten years, the number of bowling centres has risen from 49 to 220.

The depth of enthusiasm was obvious at Sunderland as it hosted the sport's London Marathon, in which club participants assemble in their masses to share a competitive saga with the elite. Few, though, even among the men, bowled along at Burden's pace.



Burden, a World Cup-winner, hopes to add the Commonwealth Games title in Kuala Lumpur

ICE SKATING

Cousins in medal reckoning

FROM ANGELA COURT IN MINNEAPOLIS

WHEN Steven Cousins takes to the ice for the world championships this week, he will be hoping it is "third time lucky". Cousins finished sixth in the European championships and Olympic Games and, with the three Olympic medal-winners not skating here — Ilia Kulik and Elvis Stojko are injured and Philippe Candeloro has retired — this is the Briton's greatest chance yet of making the podium.

"Obviously, there's going to be talk about me perhaps winning a medal or coming close," Cousins said. "My main aim is to skate as well as I can. You have to believe that you are worthy of being right up there and then you have to perform well to accomplish it. I believe I'm worthy and my training has been going well."

Cousins has made steady progress at international level since 1989, when he won the first of eight British titles at the age of 17. While 1996 represented a setback — he came fifteenth at the world championships and lost his British title to Neil Wilson — he regained the British title in December and broke through internationally in the European championships in January. "I'd had a rough time previously with lots of people doubting my ability, so it was great to skate well and finish sixth," he said, "and being within a shot of an Olympic medal was fantastic."

Cousins hopes to include the four-revolution quadruple Salchow jump in his free programme on Thursday. He would be the first British skater to accomplish a quad in competition and the first in the world to do the Salchow variety. "I really want to do it, but it depends on how I'm skating," he said. "I'll make a decision on the night."

The favourite for the title is Todd Eldredge of the United States, the winner in 1996. His main challengers will be Alexei Yagudin, the European champion, and Evgeni Pliushenko, his 17-year-old Russian compatriot and the European silver medal-winner.

JUDO

Bryant is hugely impressive

BY JOHN GOODBODY

KARINA BRYANT is the latest arrival off the conveyor belt of talented British judo fighters. She has the physique, temperament and skill to make a significant impact on the sport. Only 19 years old, Bryant is already world junior champion, a title that she will defend later this year.

At the Commonwealth Championships in Edinburgh on Saturday, she was massively impressive in the heavyweight class, winning all five bouts within a minute, uprooting her opponents with hip throws of savage intensity. Many heavyweights win contests on sheer size, but Bryant has genuine skill. Already 6ft 11in tall and weighing over 14st, she is acquiring an intimidating presence, but it is the penetration of her attacks that is so pleasing.

In the final, she first bowled over Leslie Dadsell-Smith, of Canada, with a leg throw and then crashed in with her favourite hip technique and hurled her opponent on to her back. Mark Earle, her coach at Camberley, is "hoping to groom her to become Olympic and world champion".

The strength in international judo is in the Far East and Europe rather than the Commonwealth — although the championships on Saturday attracted 17 countries — and Bryant will face a more severe task at the European senior championships in May.

So will Graeme Randall, of Scotland, who retained his light-middleweight title. In the final, he did almost all the attacking against the obdurate Jay Nicholson, of England, but was penalised for a false attack. Things were becoming desperate until he finally caught his elusive opponent on the mat and clamped on a hold-down for the necessary 30sec.

Another Scottish winner was Joyce Heron. At 4ft 9in and 7½st, she seems almost small enough to put in your pocket, but she dominated the bantamweight category, beating Dolly Moothoo, of Mauritius, who conceded two passivity points.

Results, page 40

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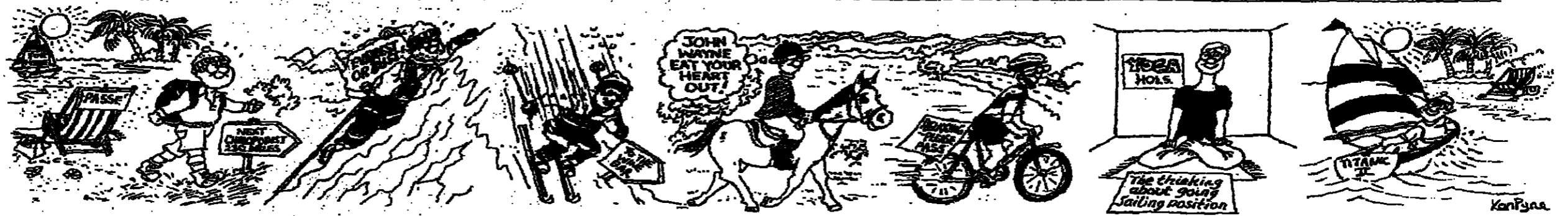
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Advertisement for 'Active Country Breaks' featuring a large image of a person in a field and text promoting outdoor activities.

Relaxing on the beach is passé. Jennai Cox reports on tailored special interest holidays — the fastest-growing vacation craze



Take a walk on the wild side

Destination no longer matters. It is what you do once you get there that counts and "beach boredom" means that a growing number of people are no longer content with the traditional package holiday and go in search of more varied ways of spending their spare time.

More and more of them want packaged adventure. Mountaineering, archery, yoga, polo and squash are among the 120 different special interest holidays offered by tour operators registered with the Association of British Travel Agents.

A growing concern with our health and an increasing desire to experience a complete change from an often humdrum home life are driving people towards a burgeoning range of action-packed breaks.

By far the largest of these is walking. People took to rambling with the start of the Industrial Revolution more than 200 years ago, and are still turning to the countryside for rest and recuperation.

Walking is now Britain's biggest sporting activity and its popularity

in overseas trips is growing. Its universal appeal and simplicity has made walking more popular than ever as a holiday activity, according to Rachael Bryant of the Ramblers' Association. "It is inexpensive, it's very sociable. People find walking calming and relaxing," she says.

The attraction of rambling to those staying in his bed and breakfast hotels in stunning countryside is what made Mick Dunn decide to offer walking holidays in Clevedon, North Devon, from this summer.

"The number of walkers has increased rapidly in this area," he says. "The peace and quiet, the country flowers and fauna, the birds and wild deer that they see is all out of their everyday experience. They all become nature lovers."

Although walking accounts for

about a third of the £2.9 billion activity holiday market, more dynamic pursuits are also beginning to attract greater custom. A larger range of all-terrain bikes sold in the UK has contributed to the growth in riding holidays. Last year, 7 per cent of adults questioned for a Mintel survey said they had taken a cycling holiday, up from 2 per cent in 1993.

Environmental and personal fitness concerns have helped the numbers swell, according to Andrea Reader, the reservations and marketing manager for Blakes Holidays.

The company is encouraged by the response to its Active Country Breaks scheme, launched in January, offering walking, cycling and horse-riding holidays. "People do not want to laze on a deckchair anymore," Ms Reader says. "They want to discover the world around

them, without doing it any damage while keeping themselves in good order."

Skiing is now so popular it is no longer considered a special interest, while ball sports holidays, especially golf, were taken by twice as many people last year as they were five years ago, according to recent research.

Another significant growth area is the take-up of multiple activity holidays, which has risen from 8 to 12 per cent, making it as popular as rambling among British adults.

Almost every sport is offered as part of a holiday by Leisure Pursuits, which was set up eight years ago to cater specifically for the sporty and active-minded. Austin Gravestock, the managing director, says that instead of laying on a beach, his customers can try five different sports in one week, from sailing to triathlon training.

He has watched the interest in activity holidays double each year since starting and does not see it coming to an end.

"The pressure of life is great now. Personal time is so precious, people want to make the most of it, and get a release from stress and strain," Mr Gravestock says. "Each day is carefully mapped out so they can squeeze in as much as they want."

While holidaymakers want more adventure, they still want a certain amount of structure to their breaks. This is particularly important for one group to which these holidays increasingly appeal: the affluent empty-nesters, with the time and money to take energetic vacations. Fulfilling dreams is now their holiday ambition.

Dan Morgan, the director of the centre for sport and leisure management at Bolton Institute of Higher Education, says that as the

activities become safer, more fashionable and popular, so tour operators will provide more of them. "Aspirations have changed," Mr Morgan says. "They are a lot more aware of what is on offer, and like a car, it also now has to do with our identity. The type of holiday we choose says something about who we are."

The age group to which many activity holidays appeals means service is all-important. Quality accommodation, personal care and individual tuition are high on the customers' priority lists. But although they may not want to rough it, says Peter Bentley, the public relations manager for Saga Holidays, which caters for the over-50s, they are younger in outlook in every other way.

"People are far more enterprising

than they were 15 years ago," Mr Bentley says. "They are more active and not afraid of trying something new. Age is no longer a barrier." The whole concept of what holidays are about has changed; people are just not in awe of travel per se anymore, he says.

There were 15.2 million activity holidays taken last year. Based on current lifestyle changes, the long-term forecast is for steady but continued growth.

Adventures under an eco-tourism banner will attract more people who want to go to more exotic and far-flung places. The longer and further from home we are, the more likely we are to try something different, according to Tim Knowles, a senior lecturer at the department of tourism and leisure at Luton University.

But it is what we can get out of our vacations that will concern the holiday takers of tomorrow. "Time and what they can do with it matters most to people, but they still want value for money," Mr Knowles says. "Holidaymakers are now buying a package in the largest sense of the word."

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Capitalisation, week's change

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Table of equity prices for various sectors including Alcoholic Beverages, Banks, Breweries, Pubs & Rest, Building Materials, Chemicals, Construction, Distributors, Engineering, Food Manufacturers, Healthcare, Household Goods & Text, Insurance, Investment Trusts, Media, Mining, Oil & Gas, Pharmaceuticals, Printing & Paper, Property, Retailers, Food, Retailers, General, Support Services, Transport, Water, and Alternative Inv Market.

Main table of equity prices with columns for company name, price, change, and other financial metrics.

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gains

According to Benjamin Franklin, nothing in life is certain except death and taxes. If you are simultaneously worried about both, the chances are that you are thinking about pensions. More and more people are. Last week's Green Paper on welfare reform fired the latest salvo in the ongoing battle to get us to make more provision for ourselves.

Time to pension off an old-age comparison

to provide a decent pension. A life assurance company recently said that a 30-year-old man trying to provide a "reasonable comfort" pension at 65 - defined as just under £5,000 a year in addition to the state pension - needs to accumulate a sum of nearly half a million pounds. I am all for people saving more, but that figure is excessive. It would not surprise me to hear that the suicide rate has since rocketed. How can the average person contemplate building up such amounts - except by opting for extended penalty now rather than shorter penalty later? Never fear, relief is at hand. The sums are bunkum - even though

the arithmetic is not wrong. Amounts of money at widely different times should be treated with extreme caution. If you think of them as being expressed in a different currency, you will not go far wrong. The quoted sum of £500,000 implicitly treats money now as the same as money in 35 years' time. You might as well say that you need a capital sum of ten billion yen - without saying anything about the exchange rate.

£500,000 expressed in today's money? Unless we know the answer, we cannot gauge how difficult it will be to accumulate such a sum. The arduous 30-year-old, though, may assume that the answer is close to what he understands by £500,000 today. Instead, it is better to do all such calculations in terms of today's money, which is the only sort of money that people really understand. If the capital sum of £500,000 were available now, given an indexed annuity rate of 8 per cent, it would provide a private pension of £40,000, guaranteed in real terms. Not bad at all, you might say, and a far cry from the measly £5,000 "comfort pension".

in a money purchase pension scheme with a current value of £16,000, should secure a pension of £5,000 a year, in terms of today's money, even if he does not invest a single extra penny. Relief! Except that you may well feel that you need a pension greater than £5,000. (You may also be older than 30.) Now you might say that this is excessively complicated, whereas it is simple to talk in terms of plain pounds. Not so. The apparent simplicity is thoroughly misleading. Things would be genuinely simpler, though, if there were no inflation at all, and if everyone, including investment professionals, acknowledged as much. Then a pound would always be worth a pound - at least until it became so many ecus.

ROGER BOOTLE

Table with multiple columns: 1997/98 High/Low, 1997/98 Mid cap (million), Price, Why +/-, Yld %, P/E, and various stock symbols like 1389, 1390, 1391, etc.

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Griffin logo and 'flowing' headline. Text: 'The flexibility of our approach to finance really did help David get things flowing. After talking with him in detail we built up an understanding of what they were trying to do. We realised that with our help on finance and credit control they could have a winner on their hands.'

